



For The Sender: Four Letters. Twelve Songs. One Story.

Alex Woodard

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Sometimes a letter is like a prayer; it's more for the sender than the receiver. Singer-songwriter Alex Woodard was letting go of his best friend, a Labrador named Kona, and most of his dreams when he received a letter that would change the course of his life. What began as a song about that letter evolved into a book and album package about real-life letters, featuring Grammy-winning artists and a live show that has sold out every performance and inspired thousands in its first few months. Join the Hay House author and award-winning songwriter as he takes you on a moving journey of release, redemption, and realization through the letters, songs, and story of FOR THE SENDER. *Proceeds generated by the songs from each letter go to a cause of the sender's choice.*

CD INCLUDED

For The Sender: Four Letters. Twelve Songs. One Story. Details

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Author : Alex Woodard

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From Reader Review For The Sender: Four Letters. Twelve Songs. One Story. for online ebook

Adam Shaeffer says

Wow. I really didn't expect this book to be as moving and powerful as it was. I caught me off guard. It surprised me, and it resonated with something deep. It is a story, after all. A story of loss, a story of finding our way forward into a future that is always unknown, a story of hope and healing in the midst of community. It was a beautiful story, even in its pain, and I am thankful to have read it.

Bonnie says

The Intro is mercifully short and confusing and doesn't make much sense until you get past it and the author explains the premise/rationale for writing this book (and enclosing the attached CD). I was hooked reading this from here on out. It was slow going thru this since it was an emotional journey...it's about people's relationships with other people (as well as Woodard's best friend; his dog Kona) and their loss of said people. It's very emotional and it makes you think of your own live and who you've loved, lost and will lose in the future. There were times I had to shut it and walk away for a time. *sniff!* It's not your typical book though and like life, it is challenging and rewarding to get through. It's honest and full of love, tenderness, compassion and memories. The music on the CD is in a word; beautiful.

Holly says

What if we all lived from a place of shared experience? How much better would the world be if each one of us recognized our own stories in the those of others? What if, rather than pass judgment on ourselves and those around us, we embraced one another with the knowledge that though our paths may diverge, our destination remains universal? In his new book, For the Sender, Alex Woodard gives readers an intimate look at how he was able to transform his life through the lives of others. Poignant, sensitive and beautifully written, For the Sender reminds us that we are all connected- to one another and the world around us- through our shared human experience.

For the Sender is a story of transformation. It is the story of how one man was brought out of himself and into the world by the power of the love contained within 12 letters he received from others detailing their own struggles with pain, loss, loneliness, tragedy and yes, joy. Upon receiving each letter, Woodard sets out to write a song, determined to give voice and meaning to the touching stories described there-in. Through collaboration with others, he is able to co-create 12 beautiful songs whose lyrics remind us that not a single one of us is ever truly alone.

In the beginning of the book Woodard describes his tendency to hide from the world under his “make-believe coat of dreams.” An imaginary coat he wears in order to protect himself from the outside world. However, by the end he has stepped out into the world of dreams realized. He discovers by letting others into his life- exposing the fear and celebrating the triumphs- that he has finally begun living.

For the Sender is a story of loss, heartache and the redemptive power of the love that connects us all. At

certain times the words are wrought with emotion and raw in their sensitivity. At others they are beautiful and touching, laced with the imagery and reflection reserved only for those who have lived through desperate times and emerged on the other side to share their stories. Regardless of their tone, the intention of Woodard's words- those in the letters written to him, those in the lyrics of his songs, and those contained within the pages of his book- remains the same. They remind us that we are all connected, that the love that is there for one of us is there for all. We simply have to open our hearts and dance to the beat of our Universal drum, while letting our own unique voices be heard.

For the Sender will be available September 18, 2012.

FTC Disclosure: I received this book free of charge from Hay House Publishers for review purposes. The opinions contained here-in reflect my honest judgment of this product.

Michelle Watson says

Heartwarming

Couldn't put it down. It will touch your soul. It brings out the hard as well as the beauty in life

Vanneza Bellydance says

Beautiful book about loss and moving on after loss.

JennanneJ says

So bored. I only finished half.

Ka says

For The Sender is a delightful, heartrending little book that chronicles a portion of the writer's emotional journey as he became more focused on reaching out to others instead of only considering his own feelings. Using four letters sent to him, he and a host of other singer-songwriters construct an album based on the stories within the letters.

Gut wrenching and decidedly tear inducing, the book is nevertheless packed with hope and healing, too. Because I don't want to have a spoiler alert, let me wrap up by saying the the proceeds from this multi-media (there's a CD in every book)project go to support the outreach programs chosen by the letter writers.

Pick up a copy today; you won't be sorry.

Katische Haberfield says

Wow, that was beautiful. Absolutely stunning. You'll need a box of tissues for this one, and I recommend you listen to it when you can give it full concentration.

This is the story about a singer-songwriter, and his journey through life, as he tries to get a break in his career. It is about the breakthrough that he has when he stops focusing on writing about his own life, and starts focusing on capturing the special and heartbreaking moments in the lives of others, as a result of receiving a letter from a fan.

You have to listen to this as an audio book because the voices are just so powerful and overcome with raw emotion. It also includes the music that Alex wrote. Recommended for everyone who has ever fell in love with the words of a song, and wondered what the story behind it was.

Muhammad Ahmed Siddiqui says

This book shows that everything in this world is connected in some way

Everything beautiful about this book. The songs, letters, stories ...

Zonaira says

It is once in a while that you read such genuinely affectionate and deep book, which makes you believe in life again. Alex has started a marvelous project of helping people by sharing into their pain or pleasure by writing songs for them and these songs are no ordinary songs. His words run deep and scratch the very essence of life. Deeply moved and happy I came across this book.

Kat says

Great book could only put it down to get a new tissue. Hearing songs on the included CD makes great songs more meaningful having read the stories behind them. His first letter was from someone named Emily. My dog that died from cancer was named Emily. it is a book of loss but mostly love, great love that is always there if we take time to be present and feel it.

Sharon says

Singer-songwriter Alex Woodard's "For the Sender" is a brief but inspiring read. Woodard first talks about losing his beloved Labrador, Kona, during a time when he is struggling to find his voice as a composer. He then gets an idea: he will write a song for anyone who sends him a letter.

Thus come four letters that inspire him not only to write new music but also, through a variety of circumstances, allow him to meet the group of folks who eventually comprise the Naysayers, Woodard's folk-rock group, who record the songs he writes. The twelve songs on the CD are inspired by the stories in the letters. Each piece is different, ranging from a gentle folk song to a rock piece; the book includes the lyrics for each one.

The stories of strength and kindness, both in the letters and in Woodard's new-found group of friends, were moving and inspirational. I sometimes found myself setting the book aside to meditate on/contemplate what I had just read so that I could absorb the wisdom in it.

This is a beautiful book, highly recommended for those who are on a spiritual journey.

Erica G says

I received this book as part of a Goodreads giveaway. The opinions are my own. I read this book straight through without listening to the accompanying CD. I could not get enough of the book to want to put it down long enough. I love that I know how and why these songs came to be. I can't wait to listen to these songs and get started on the next book in the For the Sender series. Thank you to Alex Woodard and the other song writers and/or singers in the book. You have inspired me to look at life differently, live, and realize the moment.

Roni Teson says

For the Sender.

Don't let the size of this book fool you. Alex Woodard's memoir reads like a melodic lullaby, at times impossible to put down. A singer songwriter who writes like a poet, Woodard's journey begins with a pull toward a dream that is shared in such a manner that you might want to be in that truck with him as he rolls out of town and away from the daily grind.

I know when Kona's introduced early on there can only be one ending to this, and for me it is difficult to continue down the path to another sad outcome (I refused to read about Marley for the same reason). Yet I still continued this book. I was drawn in with every imaginable stroke of the pen or tap of the keyboard because Alex Woodard's words are like a cool stream on a hot day. His journey is uniquely shared, through letters that become songs, and over the life span of his beloved dog, Kona.

Mostly I kept reading because I couldn't put it down. Alex Woodard has 'mad skills!' The man can write. And experiencing his transformation alongside him, well it's well worth the ride. The memoir is only 123 pages long, and it's amazing.

For a dog lover who's also a songwriter, this book is pure heaven. But for anyone who is searching for a better space to be living within, Alex Woodard's words might just strike a cord for you, too.

For the Sender is a five star read, and the CD of music is an added bonus.

I received this book for free from Hay House Publishing for this review. The opinion in this review is unbiased and reflects my honest judgment of the product.

Diane Kistner says

I didn't realize when I got this book for review that it was just what I needed to be able to help my sister get through her grief over losing her beloved 16-year-old chihuahua recently. Before I sat down to write this review, I made sure to get a copy off in the mail to her.

I read the book first before listening to the CD. I was struck with the purity and beauty of Alex Woodward's writing, and I would encourage him to write more. Yes, he is a musician and a person who is doing something very profound with this book, but he is also a poet. The lyrics of several of the songs he wrote stand on their own, even without the music.

I finally settled down to listen to the CD when I was going to bed last night, and I was really drawn in to how beautiful some of the songs are. One or two at first seemed a tad sentimental for my tastes, but they soon grew on me. I think "My Love Will Find You" is gorgeous, especially when you know the story behind it, and I was particularly moved by "An Act of God" because it's bigger than any religion. But the real knockout song on this CD, the one I can't get out of my head, is "From the Ashes." I'd read the book first, with its last chapter that made me catch my breath, so this song just blew me away.

The packaging of the book itself is perfect. The cover design echoes themes explored in the book. It is hardback at a smaller size that's not common, so it just feels very special to hold it. It has a quiet, understated feel to it that mirrors the author's voice. The CD is bound into the front of the book, and a postcard is bound in the back, in a very classy way. Almost like a sympathy card, but with more hope in it. The whole effort on the part of the singers, the musicians, the songwriters, and the publisher has made for a very beautiful, life-affirming book.

If you know someone in your life who is struggling with loss and you just don't know what to say, send "For the Sender" to them.
