



## Even Now

*Karen Kingsbury*

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## **Even Now** Karen Kingsbury

Sometimes hope for the future is found in the ashes of yesterday.

Shane Galanter a man ready to put down roots after years of searching. But is he making the right choice? Or is there a woman somewhere who even now remembers as does he those long-ago days . . . and a love that hasn't faded with time?

Lauren Gibbs a successful international war correspondent who gave up on happily-ever-after years ago when it was ripped away from her. Since then, she's never looked back. So how come she can't put to rest the one question that haunts her: Why is life so empty?

Emily Anderson a college freshman raised by her grandparents, and about to take her first internship as a journalist. But before she can move ahead, she discovers a love story whose tragic ending came with her birth. As a result, she is drawn to look back and search out the mother she's never met.

A young woman seeking answers to her heart's deep questions. A man and woman separated by lies and long years. . . yet who have never forgotten each other. With hallmark tenderness and power, Karen Kingsbury weaves a tapestry of lives, losses, love, and faith and the miracle of resurrection.

## **Even Now Details**

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## From Reader Review Even Now for online ebook

### Julie says

I've read about 75% of Karen Kingsbury's books and this was by far my least favorite. I would have given it 1 star if it hadn't been for the lessons on forgiveness.

My first issue with this book is the fact that Shane and Lauren had no idea where the other was moving to. Seriously?! They didn't even exchange addresses or at least the name of the town? I thought that was absurd. My second issue was with Lauren running away after she thought Emily died. She didn't think she should stick around for a proper burial or memorial service?

My third issue was that there was no contact between Emily and Shane's parents, other than saying goodbye at the airport. Shouldn't there have been a scene where they ask Emily for forgiveness and try to get to know their granddaughter?

I don't know how Shane and Lauren ended up with such great careers because they both were quite stupid in the other aspects of their lives.

I don't know what Ms. Kingsbury or her editor were thinking when they decided to publish this nonsense. I don't think I'll be reading the sequel.

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### Ky says

I feel like I'm really going against the grain here by saying this book was OK since Karen Kingsbury is such a famous author. However, I just wasn't caught up in this book. It was very "average" for me. In my opinion, the characters were forgettable and the development was slow. There were elements of the story that were somewhat implausible - I found myself thinking "why on earth would she do that?" or "how could she not know that" a couple of times. There were definitely some stretches. I just didn't really feel it and wouldn't read it again.

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### Tammy says

It is a good thing that this is not the first Kingsbury book that I have read, because if it had been, I would not have read another and that would have been a loss. The constant emotional pain that the characters in "Even Now" endure (most of it brought on by themselves) for a solid eighteen years and 333 pages left me wrung out and exhausted. Even when the happy ending came, I couldn't feel the joy.

The experiences shared by the seven main characters were told and retold endlessly through each of their different perspectives. I felt like I was being beaten to death with the plot and could have rehearsed it in my sleep. Too much drama, too much anguish, too much unrelenting, heart-wrenching pain and regret for all of us.

The beautiful thing about time is that it heals and softens our losses and sorrows, even if not able to completely erase them. It was unrealistic that the pain of these characters (especially Lauren's) never dulled. The story felt contrived and forced. Too many bad things happened for it to be believable.

That being said, Karen Kingsbury has written some beautiful novels. I have been touched, uplifted and motivated by her books. Just not this one. It is wonderful to read the words of someone who includes the reality of God in her works, and is not afraid to let sacred things remain sacred i.e., she doesn't fill her books with sensuality and lust.

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## Tracey says

Let me start by saying that had I known this was Christian fiction I may not have picked it up to begin with. I sometimes find the religious writing a little too over-the-top for my liking. I had a couple of issues with this story line:

1. The parents of these two teenagers conspire against them by taking deliberate steps to separate them from each other. One family moves across the country and the other into the suburbs and neither leaves a forwarding address. My issue ... the author implies that had they had God in their lives they would have behaved differently and not been so manipulative and controlling in their children's' lives. Say what? Being lacking in a strong Christian faith is not synonymous with lacking compassion and empathy!
  2. It takes two decades to reunite this couple who have remained deeply in love. Their daughter has grown up without her parents. The events set in motion twenty years ago have caused irreparable damage. My issue ... the author wants us to believe that after all that has transpired these seven characters will reunite and fall into each other's arms full of forgiveness because they now have God in their lives. Really? You would think that there might be at least one of them that is holding onto a bit of anger and perhaps would like to lash out and express their grief about the years that have virtually been stolen from them? Apparently not.
- The story had potential to be very good but it just was not realistic to me. The reunion was too easy; the author wrapped it up in a nice little package and stuck a bow on it. Don't get me wrong, I like happy endings and I am not saying that this couldn't end happily. I am just saying I don't think that the forgiveness could have come so easily without a little conflict and venting of anger first.
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## Trey Atkins says

I read this because Kingsbury's books encourage my wife. The theme of God's control of our lives and situations is one I am fully behind, but this now ranks as my least favorite book. Mainly due to disappointment.

When I read self-published work, mistakes are common and expected. However, this is a well-known author with a respected publisher, yet the mistakes in storyline and editing seem to indicate both are interested far more in the profit to be had and than in a quality story and book.

A few examples:

1. I am not an editor and read fast, yet, was distracted by dozens of simple editing mistakes. They are embarrassing to list and would result in a "F" at a high school or college.
2. The storyline is not realistic. The reaction to the loss of a baby, the story of how they remain apart and unable to contact one another, and the actions of the parents to keep them apart begin the list of plot and storyline that simply could not happen.
3. The storyline has conflicting facts. Ages and dates have conflicts. The timing of high school, college and military training makes it impossible for Shane to have served in the Gulf War. At most points in the story Shane is said to be a baseball player, except when it is football. This list could go on, but I'm only growing more disappointed in the lack of professionalism.

I appreciate the Christian teaching about prayer, trusting God, and God's control over events. However, I've

never wanted a refund on a book before, but feel disappointed enough in this one to consider asking.

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### **Sam says**

It wasn't outstandingly beautiful prose, or a praise-worthy plot line, but this book made me cry. And for that, I give it 5 stars. There have been around, maybe 6, 7, books in my life that have had me sobbing (it's not easy to get my tears going in books) and this one had me wailing into the book in the middle of the night. Even now had me smiling and laughing and making some sort of sound in my throat that sounded like sobbing and choking all at once... When Lauren and Shane were finally reunited, I felt like throwing myself to the ground in relief, tears streaming down my cheeks. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to read a touching book. Once in a while, perhaps because my tears come hard when I read, I appreciate reading a book so beautifully written that it sends my emotions on a rollercoaster. This book is definitely one of those books. If you don't mind shedding a tear or clutching fearfully at your chest for the sake of the characters, this book is definitely for you.

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### **Tiana says**

I've been putting off writing my review on this book because I'm not sure what to say. Generally, I don't especially like Christian fiction. This book is an example of why I don't like it. The story felt contrived and forced, like the author tried to imagine everything that could possibly go wrong and made it happen. I just kept feeling frustrated that the characters weren't using common sense to prevent these horrible things from happening. But worse was that I felt like the author was trying to make a political statement that I was neither going to appreciate nor agree with. In the end though, she surprised me and came to a conclusion that was better than I had given her credit for. So I ended up giving it 3 stars because the author showed a broader sense of tolerance than I thought she would. If you like Christian fiction, you will probably like this book because it's pretty much the epitome of Christian fiction. If you're not a Christian fiction fan, I would steer clear of this one...

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### **Cathy says**

A+; Emotions ranging from heartbreaking to triumphant in this lovely novel. If you've ever doubted the power of one moment, you won't after reading this. Ms. Kingsbury is without question the best in Christian fiction, delivering a powerful message that does not come across as preachy or ignore the realities in life. No goody-two-shoes characters cripple her prose. Real people struggle with their faith issues and come out closer to God and each other because of it.

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### **Rissa says**

Even now??

Lauren got pregnant but parents being parents wanted her to keep her pure wanted her to get an abortion and forget the boy the impregnated her but she loved him and she would love this baby.

She was told the baby died so she needed to find her boyfriend. The child's father, no one would keep them apart now. They would grow up and start a family again.

But Lauren's daughter Emily didn't die it was a mistake but Lauren didn't want to talk to her parents. Her parents were the reason she was miserable. So being good grandparents they took Emily in and made Emily the best life. All the mistakes they made with Lauren were lessons and taught them how to be great parents to Emily. But even though Emily had everything she still didn't have her parents.

It was beautiful and I loved it!!

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### **Mariann Ryckman says**

Not a huge fan of Christian fiction with a few exceptions. This was one of the most contrived story lines I've ever read. None of the actions made sense - all of the consequences were extreme. The outcome was just too neatly worked out. If you're looking for an easy read where you can just skim pages while people are whining or making dumb mistakes, this is it.

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### **Emily says**

What can I say that I haven't already said while I was reading... Horrible editing, spelling mistakes nearly every page wherein a space was moved/added/removed, making the intended words into completely different words... but still real words, albeit ones that didn't make sense in the sentence. Continuity errors. Contrived plot points, characters lacking common sense. I was interested in the basic plot, but it could have been done SO much better. Though she's quite prolific and popular, I haven't read much by this author. This one doesn't give me a good feeling about seeking out any of her other works.

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### **Loraine says**

"A young woman seeking answers to her heart's deep questions. A man and woman separated by lies and long years...yet who have never forgotten each other. With hallmark tenderness and power, Karen Kingsbury weaves a tapestry of lives, losses, love, and faith--and the miracle of resurrection."

Two families the Galanters and the Andersons - close knit with a son and daughter who grow up together, fall in love, and make a tragic mistake which tears the two families to pieces. Karen Kingsbury has written a riveting tale of what happens when people follow their own will rather than God's will and the chaos it creates. I loved the storyline and the fact that the characters were trying to do what they thought was right at the time but for all the wrong reasons.

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## **Kristi says**

I fell in love with this story. The characters were amazing. Lauren and Shane's love for each other was flawless, even as kids. They grew up without each other. And their child little Emily. Found them and tried to get them back together. I love it. Emily was adorable. Her character was awesome. Karen Kingsbury made a great contrast of characters.

Although it was in ways similar to one other book I read called The Chance. But I overly enjoyed both books.

This book was Heartbreaking, sad, heartwarming, happy, loveable. I laughed and cried. Just a complete mix of emotions.

I cant wait to read the sequel to this book.

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## **Maria says**

Lost Love Series

### **EVEN NOW**

The first book, Even Now, is the story of a young woman seeking answers to her heart's deep questions. A man and woman separated by lies and long years. . . yet who have never forgotten each other. With hallmark tenderness and power, Karen Kingsbury weaves a tapestry of lives, losses, love, and faith and the miracle of resurrection

### **EVER AFTER**

In Ever After, the moving sequel to Even Now, Emily Anderson, now twenty, is attending college on a soccer scholarship when she meets the man who changes everything for her. Lauren and Shane still struggle to move past their opposing beliefs about war, politics, and faith. Shane believes it's possible; Lauren doesn't. So she says a painful good-bye to her long-ago love and returns to her job as a war correspondent in Afghanistan. Then tragedy sends shock waves through all their lives. Can Lauren and Shane set aside their opposing views so that love—God's love—might win, no matter how great the odds?

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## **Amber says**

Great Karen Kingsbury Story! It starts out about two teenagers who fall in love and Lauren (the main girl) gets pregnant. She decides to keep her baby instead of giving it up for adoption much to the dismay of her parents and her boyfriends parents. Her boyfriend Shane's parents are trying everything they can to get them to change their mind. They want to get married and raise the baby together because they are in love. The come up with a plan and it keeps them apart. Lauren has her baby and somethings happen and she ends up leaving only to come back 18 years later to meet the daughter she didn't know was still alive! Great book would recommend. Very easy read for me. Was done in a few days :)

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