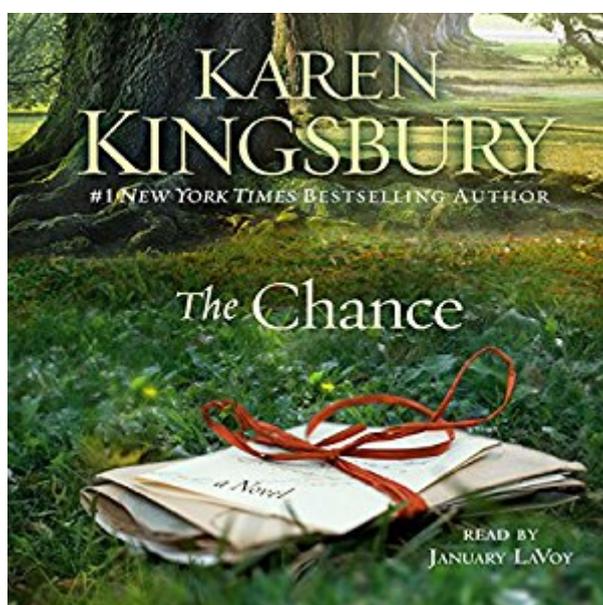


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# The Chance: A Novel



## Synopsis

From number-one New York Times best-selling 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 "Queen of Christian Fiction" by Time magazine, number-one New York Times and USA Today best-selling author Karen Kingsbury is arguably America's favorite inspirational novelist with a dozen best sellers to her credit. In *The Chance*, she delves deeply into a theme that resonates with us all: It'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 11 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 - 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

Okay, so I just read and reviewed "The Bridge"--my introduction to Karen Kingsbury's work. I hated

it. But at the end of the book, she included an excerpt from her next novel "The Chance" which actually sounded interesting. The excerpt only covered two chapters, but already I could tell the writing and character development was better than her previous work. So I thought, in honor of the title, I would give her another chance to win me as a literary fan. This was a fairly well-written novel. One thing I disliked immensely about "The Bridge" was its brevity, implausibility, and lack of narrative depth. In "The Chance" the plot and characters are much better developed. Kingsbury does a fine job of weaving together the stories of so many different people and their complicated lives. I even liked most of the characters--they were flawed and interesting. With the exception of Nolan and Ellie's daughter Kenzie, the characters were mostly believable. Nolan is depicted as way too perfect. He's a Tebow clone who apparently possesses the spiritual faith of a priest, the adoring loyalty of a cocker spaniel, and the athletic skill of Michael Jordan. And he's handsome. And rich. Of course. (This seems to be a recurring theme in her work.) Also, Kenzie plays the stereotyped role of the angelic, ethereal child who figures prominently in the pages of classic literature like "Silas Marner" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" --a blonde, perfect cherub whose simple faith, mature wisdom, and uncanny perception extend far beyond her six years. I have never, ever met a real child like this yet we're supposed to believe this perfect kid exists? Many of the characters here are polarizing as either impossibly perfect or rotten to the core (Dad, Peyton).

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