



Family

Karen Kingsbury

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A Sensational Trial

When Katy Hart travels to Los Angeles to testify against the knife-wielding fan who tried to kill her, she is hunted by paparazzi who quickly realize she is the mystery woman photographed with movie star Dayne Matthews. Tension and pressure build to a dangerous level as Katy and Dayne seek private moments amidst the frenzy. In the end, Dayne's celebrity life makes Katy certain that a future with him is all but impossible.

A Life-Changing Decision

As the trial comes to a close, Dayne searches for answers. Not until he talks to his childhood friend does he realize his desperate need for wisdom and direction. Ultimately, his journey leads him to an isolated beach where God makes Dayne's future as clear as the waters of Cancún. But can he live with the decision God places before him?

A Stunning Discovery

Landon and Ashley Blake are celebrating the happiest days of their lives, enjoying Cole and their newborn son. But Ashley cannot find peace until she finds her older brother—the firstborn Baxter sibling. Her constant questions to her father, John Baxter, have netted nothing. Now she receives news that rocks her world and threatens to end her search in heartbreaking finality.

Family Details

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Author : Karen Kingsbury

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From Reader Review Family for online ebook

Stefanie says

There's just something special after reading a Karen Kingsbury book for me. A sense of peace and joy as you read the final words of one of her novels.

Family, the fourth book in the Firstborn series, was a tale of the bond that love and family can bring, no matter what life throws at you.

It's a continuation of Dayne and Katy's complicated relationship. It's also a continuation on the Baxter Family's quest to find out more information about their older brother.

I look forward to reading the last installment of this series and as always my heart will have to process all the emotions that come along with reading a Baxter family story.

Taryn Spearey says

That was another amazing Book! In this one, Dayne keeps having conflicting thoughts about whether or not to involve the Baxter in the spotlight or not. He doesn't want to subject them to that kind of life, and the same goes for Katy.

Throughout the book, Dayne and Katy are constantly running for the paparazzi no matter where they are. They want to be together so much, but don't know how to make it work.

Dayne's sister, Ashley, wants him to come to the family gathering, and meet the other siblings, as she was the only one who knew he was their brother. He takes a few days at a beach and prays to God.

Finally, towards the end of the book, Dayne finally goes and sees his family and Katy. They are all so happy he ended up coming, and Dayne hits it off with everyone. Finally, at the end of the book, Dayne asked Katy to marry him, and she says yes.

What a happy ending!!

Melissa says

2.5 stars 4th in second Baxter series. Rather slow. Dayne and Katy decide they want to be together.

The fourth book in Kingsbury's Firstborn series gives an in-depth look at the price Dayne pays for fame. It's pleasant to meet the characters again, but the plot moves slowly. The portions involving Katy's assault trial are exciting, and the process of forging a new family is heartwarming and real. But the tabloid/paparazzi aversion is overdone and gets tediously preachy. The overall theme of learning to trust God's priorities rather than what feels convenient is soul-stirring. Fans of the series will enjoy this new addition, but newcomers may be lost in the continuing saga.

Katy Hart doesn't know what to expect from the upcoming trial. She's fallen deeper in love with Dayne Matthews, but his fame gets in the way of their relationship. Now that her identity will be brought into the

open, can she handle the effects?

Dayne is happy that he has connected with his father John Baxter and hungry to meet his siblings. He's not anxious to expose them to any media scrutiny, yet there doesn't seem to be another option.

Review originally appeared in RT BookReviews

Stephanie Dulac says

i dont care what people say this book was amazing and i love her and her books this series is wonderful and i really cant wait to read forever ♥♥♥♥???

Angela says

I would have given this book 5 stars had it not been for all the annoying EXTREME modesty from Katie. I rolled my eyes several times and wanted to just skim through those parts and in my head I kept thinking.....are u serious...just freaking face those annoying paparazzi and quit running because u are too afraid of what OTHERS think about u! Who cares what OTHERS think or feel! It's your life, you and God know the truth SO LIVE IT! Anyway the book could have really done without all that annoyance! However the ending was PERFECT and I had tears running down my face!

Andrea says

While I recommend reading this book as part of the Baxter family saga, it wasn't my favorite in the series. The paparazzi angle was crazy, overdone, and repetitive. Some of it may have been realistic, but I felt like the book dwelt on it too much.

I love the Baxter family & their adventures though. I really believe they are REAL! ;)

Pamela says

Amazing ending. I love this family. Can't wait to start next one :)

Pam says

This review may not be entirely fair because once again I was given this audiobook by someone else & it turned out to be like the fourth in the series. So I found that although I followed the story well enough I really didn't have much investment in the characters.

Pretty standard romance plot between a hollywood movie star & a regular person plus a trial involving a crazy stalker.

Strong Christian theme too, which is certainly admirable, but personally as a Christian I find it a bit hard to swallow. As a Christian I don't really get the personal whispers from God or the scriptures popping into my head whenever I need them - but maybe that's more an indication of my own failings. I don't know.

Tamara Tilley says

After reading other reviews regarding FAMILY, and the Firstborn series as a whole, I would say I have to agree with some of the more critical reviews regarding redundancy, exaggeration, and rehashing of the same scenes. But because I wanted to continue with the series, and see where the Baxter family ends up before I move onto the Sunrise series, I had to learn to recognize the tells of Ms. Kingsbury digressing into a reflective moment and condition myself to skim the large authorial or superfluous sections.

Dayne and Katy are the typical Romeo and Juliet. Their relationship is made up of clandestine moments, others keeping them apart, a love so deep it aches, and the feeling as if life is not complete without the other. Thankfully, Dayne and Katy don't end up like their counterparts.

This installment in the series is a lot of back and forth between Katy and Dayne. At times, I felt like pulling my hair out because of the conjured up reasons they both kept coming up with that would make their relationship too difficult to continue. But, the highlights –the courtroom scenes, the times Katy and Dyne are together, and a fulfilling ending, is enough to keep true Kingsbury fans connected. The series could've easily been wrapped up in three books, but hey, Ms. Kingsbury and Tyndale House Publishers know a good thing when they have it. And no matter how repetitive the stories, I am still committed to finishing the series so I can move on to the next.

Amy says

Like the books, but the one thing that gets annoying is the style at the end of every chapter. It is identical. To the point where you almost know exactly what the last sentence is going to be before you read it. It gets a little old. But, I am enjoying the story.

Brenda says

I enjoy Karen Kingsbury's writing. She's really able to bring the reader into the story and make them feel for the characters.

Reagan Soper says

oh my yay!! so as I said in my last review, i take back any negative or remotely negative thing I have said about this book. it ended with family and before I thought it wasn't going to happen. well reagan, you were wrong. and I'm extremely happy that I was wrong. and oh how could I forget DANYE AND KATY ARE ENGAGED!!! oh the love I have for this series. a definite recommend. again, like the last book, 5 stars??!

Robyn Schlichter says

I love the story and so exciting to see the relationships developing. I can't put them down!

Melanie says

Family is the 4th book in the Baxter's Firstborn Series. It is the 9th book in the Baxter series.

Katy and Dayne are set to testify in the trial where a crazed fan tried to kill Katy and Dayne on a beach one night. Dayne has done what he can to hide Katy's identity, but now that the hearing is here, they must release her name. The tabloids go crazy and do their best to get pictures of Dayne and Katy together. Katy and Dayne love each other but they just can't figure out how to be together with the paparazzi chasing them with their every move. Katy and Dayne almost have a car accident with the paparazzi chasing them and they realize that they have to say goodbye to each other b/c they will never be able to have a normal life without the paparazzi chasing them. One last look to each other and telling each other that they love the other one and that is their final goodbye. Dayne gets a call from his missionary friend who tells him that he needs to go to a beach someone and make a list of the important things in his life and then go after them for the rest of his life. Dayne makes that list and then he is determined to following it.

Ashley is determined to find her older brother, who was adopted. Ashley is the only sibling that knows about the adopted brother. Ashley keeps pushing her Dad to tell the other siblings. John Baxter sits down to write a letter to tell the other siblings about their brother and then decides to make a phone call and tell them. They are shocked but are forgiving of their parents and keeping the secret that they have kept for so long. Ashley answered her Dad's cell phone one day and Dayne Matthews is on the other end. Dayne made up an excuse but with other things that Jenny Flanigan tells Ashley, she figures out that Dayne Matthews is their brother. She calls him to find out if it is true and she invites him to their 4th of July picnic.

I am loving the Baxter series. I am not usually one for really long book series and I usually get sidetracked with other books but this series has kept my attention going on 10 books now. I love Karen's style of writing and I look forward to reading Forever.

Honeypie says

Honestly, I think Karen Kingsbury could have come up with a better title. Sure, the Baxter series is all about family, but I guess what struck me the most about this book is not exactly family-related.

My favorite moment was when Dayne went on a 2-day vacation to the beach, and listed down what his priorities are, and then decides what he should do about it.

Quite simple, right? But who among us can really find time to do that? Yes, we could initially book a flight, and spend a few hours (if not minutes) working on our priorities. But to do something about it, *immediately after*? Wow.

This may be a fiction, but it doesn't mean it's not possible.

With God, all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26

Now, how do I find time to do that exactly? Hmm....

Another realization: With believers and followers of Christ, getting into a romantic relationship and getting married doesn't take time. There's no dating. Only God and forever.

Anne Marie says

This book was primarily about Dayne Matthews and Katy Hart. After what seemed like a very long, back and forth, what if, can never work, different lives excuse, continuous get-used-to-it paparazzi chases, Dayne and Katy are engaged! I was actually surprised when Dayne, out of the blue, came to Bloomington and surprised Katy with a ring, there was no hesitation to say yes after so many obstacles and excuses why being together couldn't work. But anyway, other than knowing that Dayne and Katy will certainly be together even though they will most likely face many ups and downs, we read in this book about the events that led up to Dayne's proposal. The trial against the woman who tried to kill Katy with a knife when Dayne and Katy were alone took place. Throughout the trial the attorneys and Dayne tried their best to keep Katy out of the spotlight. But when the media finally found out who the mystery woman was with Dayne, the paparazzi were more determined to get pictures of the couple, whether they were on a beach relaxing, kissing in the water, or going to a beach house that was supposed to be a secret. Katy is worried how the tabloids will portray her, especially since she works for a Christian kids theater. And she does make it in the tabloids. But those who know Katy tell her not to worry, and only a few parents at the theater are concerned. After the trial, and a successful guilty verdict for the crazed woman, Dayne and Katy want to spend time alone on a picnic, but the paparazzi once again find them. Dayne and Katy try to get away, and almost are killed in a car accident. They go their separate ways once again, Katy going back to her home.

Dayne not only has Katy on his mind. He also has the Baxter's on his mind, the family he always wanted. But how can he meet them when the paparazzi and tabloids will wreck the Baxters' privacy? In the meantime, more coincidences are happening with Ashley. While painting at her father's house, her dad's cell phone rings. It happens to be Dayne Matthews. (Dayne and John Baxter are talking regularly.) When Ashley answers it, Dayne makes an excuse, saying Luke (who is an attorney helping at the trial) needed Dayne to call and give his father a message for him. Then when Ashley is talking with Jenny Flanigan while waiting for Katy to get ready to go out with her, Jenny mentions Dayne is adopted and his biological family lives in Bloomington. Ashley puts two and two together and realizes her brother could very well be Dayne Matthews. When she can't get in touch with her dad to ask him if she's right, she calls Dayne and asks him. He admits who he is, and they have a great conversation. Ashley's dream of her family finally meeting their older brother will happen at their 4th of July picnic.

Bette says

Loved the entire series about the Baxter family

Sara Fite says

Family is my favorite book out of the Firstborn series. It's like the first 3 books in the series have all slowly lead to this book and the ending is the big moment everyone has been waiting for and wanting. Not all of the problems associated with the "happy ending" have been resolved, but that only makes you want to read the next book. This book will definitely hold your interest and you won't be able to put it down. LOVE IT.

Sylvia says

Great story!! I love this series!! can't wait to read the next book in the series!! Love this author!!

Elizabeth S. Baker says

Fantastic Family Advenyure

Have read the First books about Baxters and about to read last book in "firstborn series. Cannot stop reading it from first to last page. You cry with family celebrate with family and become a part of this family and never wish to leave them. They are so real. Only God can be guiding Karen's hand in such continuous truth of His words used in it
