



# Letting Go

*Michelle Sutton*

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## Letting Go Michelle Sutton

Sometimes for dreams to come true, you have to let go . . . Outwardly Diane Simmons appears to have everything a woman could want. A successful attorney, she s beautiful and talented, yet she always seems to be attracted to the wrong men. Dave Passel loves his foster son deeply. When the State tries to reunite Joey with the birth mother he has never known, Dave hires Diane to fight for him in court. But as the attraction between them strengthens, they discover that the hardest lesson is learning to let go."

## Letting Go Details

Date : Published August 1st 2011 by Sheaf House (first published February 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781936438013

Author : Michelle Sutton

Format : Paperback 374 pages

Genre : Romance, Christian Fiction, Christian Romance, Contemporary, Christian, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Letting Go for online ebook

## Jan says

This was a Goodreads Win. Thank you.

Why did it take me so long to read this book one may ask?  
Because it fell behind the suitcase, after I brought it back from holiday.

I found this very difficult to read, having worked in the system, and having dealt with sensitive issues, troubled families and the legal system.

The author has a good grasp on the social system and the problems that arise.

Excellent read.

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## K. Dawn says

This book isn't out yet, but I read it as an advanced reader copy. Many of you know, I'm a huge Michelle Sutton fan. I must say that this is an absolute favorite! Michelle developed the characters so well that I immediately fell in love with them and couldn't wait to see what happened next in their journey.

This book is very memorable as are the characters. Michelle Sutton does a wonderful job of drawing emotion out of the reader and allowing us to feel deeply for her characters. When I read the cover blurb, I didn't think I'd like this book. I don't have kids, knew nothing about foster care, and really didn't think I'd have anything in common with the characters. It didn't take long for me to become so enthralled with them that I couldn't wait to read the next chapter.

If you like romance with lots of tension, this one's for you!

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## Brian P. says

A woman with a past straightening out her life, a man fighting to hold onto the foster son he came to love, a test of faith and learning to believe. What's not to love? Being a foster parent myself, I couldn't help but fall into this story and feel what these characters felt in their struggles. A truly wonderful story.

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## Jeannie says

Michelle never disappoints!! Every book just keeps getting better and better. Loved, Letting Go! Her characters are unforgettable. You really do get lost in the story with them. Letting Go is not hot like her other novels, but it was a truly great read. Diane's story was so heart wrenching. Following her on her journey of

finding peace in the midst of turmoil, and learning how to truly let go of the past. But also finding hope for her future. Learning to trust again. Not only trust a man again, but trust and believe in God. Learn to believe in her heavenly father. Dave's story was very touching. Seeing his love for a little boy that he wanted to adopt. Seeing his journey of letting go and trusting in God. Relying completely on Him and the ones that God brought into his life to help him adopt the little boy he's thought of as his son since he came to live with him. Diane and Dave's story was truly moving. Michelle did an AMAZING job!! She never disappoints.

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## **TWJ Magazine says**

This novel by Michelle Sutton covers a couple of tough issues, as her books are known to do. And it's every bit as good as her others.

In *Letting Go*, Diane Simmons is a lawyer known for her aggressiveness in the courtroom. But her personal life is a mess. After a bad relationship with a man she hadn't known was married, and a medical procedure that renders her unable to conceive, Diane vows not to get involved with a man again. Then Dave Passel hires her for the custody of his adopted son, Joey. The case manager and Joey's natural mother are giving him trouble, and he needs help fast. But both Diane and Dave get more than they bargained for when a mutual attraction develops. Dave is reluctant to get involved, because of circumstances he faced with his now-deceased wife, and because Diane isn't a Christian. Diane can't bring herself to foster a relationship, because she harbors some deep, dark secrets that go back to her childhood. Can these two souls let go of past situations they've lived through in order to find genuine love? Will God intervene?

As a social worker, Michelle Sutton is equipped to create believable scenarios and to use the tools she provides to her real-life clients to present ways these problems can be solved. The attractiveness of the hero and heroine is a key part of the story, and doesn't detract from their authenticity. I particularly liked how the main characters extended the love of Christ to an adversary in the final act, which helped to bring the story to a satisfying conclusion. If you like novels that cover real-life, tough issues, then *Letting Go* is for you.

*The Wordsmith Journal strives to guide readers to books of personal interest, with the understanding and respect that what appeals to some may not appeal to others. Therefore we attempt to keep our reviews focused on content, genre and style. The rating is necessary to make use of Goodreads and Amazon. It reflects the reviewer's own level of enjoyment, but the review is intended to be informative for the benefit of all readers.*

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## **Tracy Krauss says**

Lawyer Diane Simmons is beautiful and successful on the outside, but beneath this facade are some deeply rooted issues and insecurities that stem from an abusive childhood. Single father Dave is at risk of losing his adopted son and seeks Diane's counsel. This is not the typical shallow love story, however. There is so much depth to this one in terms of the human emotion and the character development. In typical Sutton fashion, there are some 'touchy' subjects that surface, (and I don't mean the physical, although that is sufficient to satisfy the romance lover.) It also has a very strong redemptive message and comes from a straight up Christian worldview, yet this aspect never feels forced, but is always tasteful and genuine. I know this sounds cliché, but I really couldn't put this one down. I finally went to bed in exhaustion, but first thing in the morning I had to finish it – even before I did my dishes! Now THAT is a good book!

It's another winner for the author to add to her already bulging arsenal.

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### **Dawn Turner says**

An incredible story of redemption. Diane doesn't believe God can possibly love her after the life she's chosen, the choices she made, the sins she's committed. But she finds that God doesn't just offer love and forgiveness, He redeems broken lives and disgraceful pasts. I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good story of God's redemptive power and love.

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### **Carolyn says**

Another great read from Michelle Sutton. If you are the type of reader who likes page turners, this is it. I am not kidding, you cannot put this book down. I had to know what the heroine or hero was going to do next. If you are looking for one of those corny, feel good, Love Inspired books, this is not it. Letting Go is edgy and the characters are real, the story is believable. Christian books should be written realistically, and this author does not disappoint you in any of her books. Diane is a lawyer who is hired by Dave, a man who wants to keep his adopted son because the birth mother wants him back. Dave, a Christian, cannot deny the feelings that he has for her. Because of Diane's troubling past, she tries to keep pushing him away but Love has a way of working magic between two people who were meant to be together and with God involved the bond becomes perfect. This is worth adding to your Christian romance library.

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### **Karen Baney says**

Diane Simmons is a regular woman with a messed up past. Issues with her father clouded her relationships with men. When she learns an awful truth about her current boyfriend and discovers a serious health concern, she loses all hope. Through her struggles to reconcile her past and look forward to a future different than she dreamed, she learns that she must trust, not only God, but men. Her journey is intensely emotional and takes the reader to the edge of her horrible childhood, without overwhelming the reader with too much detail. I felt her plight but it didn't weigh me down.

This story pushes some of the boundaries of traditional Christian romance, but in a very tasteful way. The romance was spicier than most of the "and then they kissed...fade to black" scenes, but still very pure.

I loved that neither of the main characters had neat perfect lives. They were both a mess, yet they wanted to learn how to trust God more and they wanted to deal with their mess. To me, this is what the real Christian life is like.

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### **B.J. Robinson says**

Letting Go by Michelle Sutton is 26 chapters of romance entwined with faith published in February 2011 by

Sheaf House Publishers. It's the first book in the author's Healing Hearts series, and it's sincerely a healing-hearts novel packed with romance that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Diane Simmons seems to have it all, everything a woman could want: beauty, brains, a successful law career, a perfect figure, but the one thing she strives so hard to win continually eludes her, the love of a good man who'll love her for her and not her looks. She's been trained in the art of seduction since she was a young girl. Her mother entered her in beauty contests, and she knew how to smile to win a judge's favor, but it's not so easy to win a man's heart with her smile. She's attracted to the wrong type of man and uses fashion magazine and romance novels as a guide. She drives a Mercedes and dresses in high fashion, but men continue to deceive her, and something is missing in her life despite outward appearances. She longs for a child and a husband and each time she thinks her dream has a slight chance of coming true, it's snatched from her.

Dave Passel has lost his wife and is about to lose his foster son Joey. He hires Diane to advocate for him. Can she win the most important thing in Dave's life for him? To make matters worse, Dave's ex girlfriend from high school turns out to be the lawyer on the opposing team, and she still carries a torch for Dave. Diane is falling for him herself, but she feels unworthy. Will Dave choose one of them for his wife and Joey's mother? Which woman will win their case and their man? Diane has issues from the past clogging her mind. Can she focus before it's too late, or will she allow the other woman to win?

This redemptive love story unravels with surprises and twists for a fast-paced read as Dave struggles to let go and trust in God and Diane allows herself to get to know Him. I love every novel I read by this author because of the way she combines romance with faith. This one is no different, but it packs a powerful potential for healing hearts and changing lives as do all her novels.

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## **Andi says**

Two people with hurting hearts, they meet because Dave needs a lawyer to represent him to fight to keep his foster son, Joey. During the course of their professional relationship Diane and Dave find that they have feelings for each other. Diane tries to fight it because of the abuse she suffered as a child, Dave is leery because his late wife held his sterility over his head. Diane has a passion for children and that is why she fights for them as an attorney.

Michelle has once again taken hurting hearts, and shown how with God you can heal. It is not always easy or fun, but you can do it! It requires trust and letting go of all the stuff in the past, and letting God take care of it.

One of my favorite lines from the book . . . "No wonder being a real Christian isn't popular. Who wants to suffer so they can find joy?" Diane

"The ways of the Lord are in conflict with the ways of men."

I highly recommend this book! I give it a lighthouse and shine a light on it for pointing a path to God!!!  
WAY TO GO MICHELLE!!!!!!

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## **Barbara Brink says**

"Letting Go" is a story that deals with the horrible reality of incest, but it deals with it in a realistic and careful way, not dwelling on the action but on the repercussions. I don't think I am giving away any storyline secrets to say that the protagonist was molested by her father as a child and from that learned to deal with men on a sexual level, always looking for love in all the wrong places and with all the wrong men.

Letting Go is a portrait of a woman struggling to find that illusive thing called love and never quite able to hold on to it. Past experiences have taught her that love isn't free. She has to give something to get something. So she uses her beauty and sex to get a man, but for some reason it's always someone else's man.

Wanting nothing more than to get married and have a baby, Diane, a child advocate lawyer and former beauty queen, fails time after time with finding the right kind of man.

Dave is a young widower with a foster son. He needs help to maneuver through the rocky road of child custody, adoption, and a last minute attempt of the birth mother to take his son away. He hires Diane.

Michelle Sutton doesn't shy away from a prickly topic but is able to reveal a messed up woman's heart, so broken that only the love of the perfect heavenly Father can heal it.

I read this book very quickly, thoroughly engrossed. It was very interesting to read a story from the viewpoint of someone who has actually worked as a social worker and knows the pitfalls and good that our court system provides when trying to place children in the right homes.

This was definitely a healing hearts story, and I recommend it to anyone who is struggling with letting go of something that is holding you back from trusting Christ.

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## **Margaret Metz says**

Michelle Sutton has done it again. Every time I pick up a book of hers I know I will meet real people facing problems in ways that normal people would. This book tackled huge issues and didn't shy away from the very real consequences that come from them.

Diane is damaged from abuse as a child. She can't relate to men in a normal way. She doesn't feel loved. Once she realizes how much damage she's been doing to other people's relationships (because she's had affairs with married men without knowing it), part of her doesn't think she deserves happiness even if she could find it. She's isolated in life. She doesn't have friends because she treats women as competition. When her situation comes to a crisis, she has to pick a path and that's when everything starts to unravel.

Despite her problems, Diane has a strength about her that keeps her going. She also is compassionate and has a career dedicated to helping children. She gets a lot of satisfaction from that. I felt my heart break for her more than once. I identified with her yearning to be loved and accepted. I think that's a universal desire. It's a mistake to think that those with money and looks are automatically happy and loved. This book is a great example.

Dave is a great dad who is expecting to adopt the foster child he's been raising for nearly two years. Suddenly a wrench is thrown into the works and both father and son are devastated. Add in a new caseworker that doesn't like him... Things go terribly wrong. Dave is normally patient and relaxed but he reacts as I think anyone in this situation might. He's defensive, tense, suspicious... He doesn't lose control and do anything drastic, but it tears his heart out and ours right with it. I think the only thing that keeps him from falling off the edge is his faith.

In this middle of this, the two of them find each other. Neither wants it. Both fight it. Diane is seriously scared of it. The pain and heartache they both have gone through just make their relationship together that much sweeter when it comes.

A side character, Ken, was also well done. He showed all the same realistic elements I love to see in Michelle's characters - especially those that are believers. He was a friend of Diane's that she used to date. He was kind and compassionate, struggled with temptation, but in the end stood strong and was honest about it. The small group Diane visits is not that well developed (mostly because they only played a very small role in the book). Many of them mention pasts, but as for the present, they seemed very sweet and were willing to be a friend to Diane no matter what.

This is a fantastic book and I would suggest you not only to read for yourself, but to share others. :o)

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## **Diane Craver says**

Although I heard from other readers that Michelle Sutton was a terrific edgy inspirational writer, I hadn't read any of her books. But now I'm happy to say that I have! After reading LETTING GO, I definitely have to agree with all the rave reviews about Michelle's books. Her characterization of troubled Diane Simmons keeps you turning the pages. We see the 'beautiful people' and assume their lives are perfect. But appearances are especially deceiving when it comes to Diane. Her despicable father can't keep his hands to himself. Diane's mother thinks entering her young daughter in many beauty pageants is the best way to keep her away from the sick situations at home. Unfortunately, this is the extent of the 'dear' mother's intervention. Diane grows up confused about men which results in her being attracted to men like her father.

Dave Passel hires Diane to be his lawyer because he's afraid of losing his son Joey to the birth mother. Diane takes the case because she sees what a good and devoted father Dave is to his young son. He has issues about trusting Diane at times because of how badly he was treated by his deceased wife. Even though, Dave doesn't want to become involved with a non-Christian woman, he isn't able to ignore the strong feelings he has for the beautiful Diane. She fights her attraction to him because of different fears she has. Dave feels a great deal of anxiety and loses it when Joey's caseworker wants the birth mother to gain custody of Joey. I thoroughly enjoyed reading how Diane handles the case in the courtroom.

Michelle includes a wonderful Bible study group of women in the story. They give Diane unconditional love in spite of some sins she has committed. It's touching how many people reach out to Diane while she tries to cope with her many inner struggles. She seems to take one step forward and two steps backwards as her brain tries to quench her soul's desire to accept Christ as her Savior.

I highly recommend this absorbing and beautifully written book, LETTING GO.



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## **Erica Senecal says**

The older I get, the more I enjoy reading novels that combine hope with realistic situations. In this book, the main characters struggle with Letting Go of their hurts and fears in order to step into healing and change.

Diane's childhood, having been riddled with familial abuse, led to a lifetime of choices that she regrets at the start of this story. As the plot continues, the reader learns more about her past. The pain inflicted on Diane has resulted in broken relationships with her parents, enough shame to make her feel unworthy of true love, and isolation from other folks. Dave's background isn't as horrid but it's just as heart-wrenching. His story starts a year and a half after his wife's death. Dave is a dedicated father to his foster son, Joey. His desire to adopt has been thwarted by the system and then by Joey's first mother. Dave struggles with loss and grief while he does all he can – even hiring family lawyer, Diane – to fight the system in hopes of becoming Joey's permanent father.

As the story unfolds, Michelle shows how God subtly reminds us of His love and care by bringing people into our lives that we may not expect to make a difference. I love that aspect of this book. It's far too easy to hide our deepest secrets because we fear that if anyone knew, they would reject us. Diane and Dave both take chances to trust someone new as they take baby steps to trust God also. We are not meant to be alone. The more we talk about our hurts and bring them to the surface, the more we can let go and allow our hearts to be healed. I love that message.

Although I've only read two books by Michelle, I look forward to adding more to my library.

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