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When I'm Gone: A Novel



Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal bestseller
Dear Luke, First let me say "I love you" I didn't want to leave you
Luke Richardson has returned home after burying Natalie, his beloved wife of sixteen years, ready to face the hard job of raising their three children alone. But there's something he's not prepared for "a blue envelope with his name scrawled across the front in Natalie's handwriting, waiting for him on the floor of their suburban Michigan home. The letter inside, written on the first day of Natalie's cancer treatment a year ago, turns out to be the first of many. Luke is convinced they're genuine, but who is delivering them? As his obsession with the letters grows, Luke uncovers long-buried secrets that make him question everything he knew about his wife and their family. But the revelations also point the way toward a future where love goes on "in written words, in memories, and in the promises it's never too late to keep.

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Customer Reviews

At first I thought this was very much like PS I Love You - letters from the now deceased loved one arriving on a pre-defined schedule... This one wasn't all-romantic though. The letters started out with

small talk, how she hated her cancer, that she didn't want to go and pass on, especially with the children to be left behind, but there wasn't really any choice. What she had was time, albeit very little, that she spent writing to his soon to be widowed husband. Only she kept the letters a secret, arranging for their delivery starting on the day after her funeral, with the last one to be sent on the first anniversary of her death. She thought that after a year, with all the other letters as a prelude, he would have been well prepared for the big reveal. The story has a very good twist. I thought I saw what was coming, only to be blindsided. Pick up this book if you're in the mood for a lot of family drama, grief over the loss of a loved one, surprises, and moving on.

This novel gave me the idea of creating a book of my own for my sons and grandchildren. Telling them things they don't know about me or my life or my dreams. My parents died when I was young so I never got to know them as "people". I wish they had left notes.

This was an incredible story, 5 Stars without a doubt. I have to admit that even though I love Emily Bleeker's work, I hesitated before deciding to read this book, you can imagine some of the reasons why.... too much sorrow? Would I spend the entire time thinking about my own kids and husband and what I'd write to them if I knew I was dying? One thing was for sure, I was totally absorbed by this book. At the start of the book Luke is returning home from the funeral of his beloved wife Natalie with their three children. Totally devastated and wondering how he is going to cope on his own he finds a blue envelope with her handwriting on the front doormat. She has written him a letter and these letters are a lifeline to him but as they keep coming he starts to wonder who is sending them. The mystery letters, weren't the only mystery. There were plenty of surprises, questions and twists and turns. About the time I thought all the surprises were out, out popped another one. It was so well done. Each letter just brought out more questions, that led to another one. Matters arise from the letters and as he investigates he turns up more questions, what secrets was she keeping from him and how well did he actually know her, was their life based on a lie? Natalie herself was quite the character, well loved, a fighter and someone who helped many people. You really felt you knew her by reading her letters. She had a great sense of humour and brought joy into many lives. She wasn't perfect which made her even more realistic; but she always did the best she could. I don't want to say much more and spoil any of the magic but you will be enlightened as the pages unfold. A great story that had me hooked right from the beginning, a real rollercoaster with twists and turns that kept me guessing but a lovely ending that tied everything together well. 5 + stars.

Actors hate what they call quarter inch characters who are like cookie cutter personalities. If this book went on stage the actors would line up to play. Real people make mistakes and have secrets untold. You get to know these characters well, but they will still surprise you now and then. I enjoyed this book. It truly allowed me to "Walk in another man's/woman's shoes". I'll read another book by Ms. Bleeker.

I enjoyed reading this book. Meeting the grieving family as they bury their young mother, the reader soon becomes involved with this reeling family and its mysteries. Letters from beyond the grave reveal secrets that I didn't see coming.

Interesting plot and characters with several unusual twists and turns. Although not a book I couldn't put down, my interest was held until the end. An enjoyable read.

This book reads easily and covers the emotions of a family and a friend of a young cancer victim. It is a page turner that interestingly includes mystery and domestic abuse. The author is very adept at making the story flow smoothly.

What a well written, captivating, and intriguing story about life after tragedy. All the plot lines flowed. The characters were all so lovable, and it was just beautiful from page 1 to the end. Definitely a worthwhile read.

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