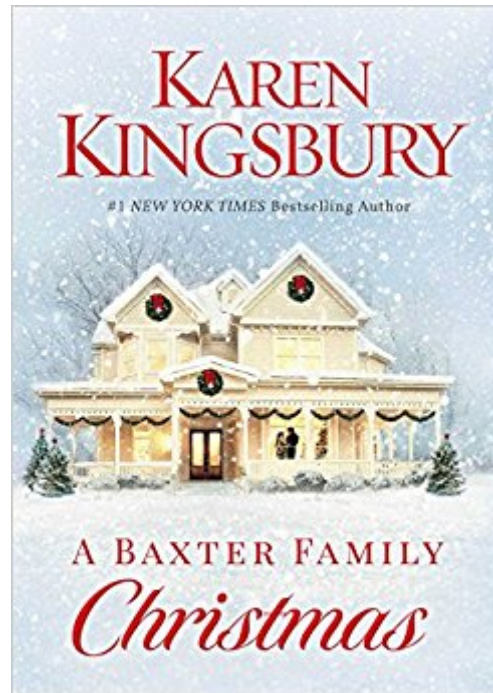




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# A Baxter Family Christmas



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller! Karen Kingsbury's most beloved characters are back! From #1 New York Times bestselling author Karen Kingsbury comes *A Baxter Family Christmas*, a life-changing story of love and hope featuring the Baxter family. Whether you're meeting the Baxter family for the first time, or finding them all over again, *A Baxter Family Christmas* will leave fingerprints on your heart forever. Two years have passed since the terrible car accident that took the life of John Baxter's daughter, Erin, her husband and three of their four daughters. Prompted by grief, and missing his daughter, John has invited a stranger for Christmas Eve dinner—Kendra Bryant, the transplant recipient who now has Erin's heart. In light of their father's idea, Ashley and her brother Luke don't think it's right. They want to protect their ten-year-old niece, Amy—the only surviving member of the accident. But John is determined and believes meeting this woman is something his deceased daughter would want. At the same time, Maddie West, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Brooke Baxter West, is praying for meaning this Christmas. Could she find it in a newfound friendship with a boy she never expected to see again? Maddie believes in miracles, especially at Christmastime, but this is a stretch even she can't imagine. Meanwhile, Kendra Bryant has been struggling these past few years to find purpose in the tragedy that gave her a second chance. She believes the invitation to see the Baxters and witness their unwavering faith in God can instill peace and happiness back into her life. Heartwarming and touching, filled with love and redemption, *A Baxter Family Christmas* brings together two families in the aftermath of loss and in the midst of an unfolding love story, all with the help of one very special child.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Rifts are acknowledged, reconciliation sought, and faith tested... will satisfy Kingsbury fans, old and new.” (Publishers Weekly)

Karen Kingsbury, #1 *New York Times* bestselling novelist, is America's favorite inspirational storyteller, with more than twenty-five million copies of her award-winning books in print. Her last dozen titles have topped bestseller lists and many of her novels are under development with Hallmark Films and as major motion pictures. Her Baxter Family books are being developed into a TV series slated for major network viewing sometime in the next year. Karen is also an adjunct professor of writing at Liberty University. In 2001 she and her husband, Don, adopted three boys from Haiti, doubling their family in a matter of months. Today the couple has joined the ranks of empty nesters, living in Tennessee near five of their adult children.

Two years have passed since the car accident that took the lives of Sam and Erin Baxter Hogan and three of their four daughters. Erin's father, John Baxter has invited a stranger for Christmas Eve dinner—Kendra Bryant, the recipient of Erin's heart. The family is divided about meeting Kendra and some say they'll miss Christmas so they don't have to meet her. At the same time, Maddie West, daughter of Brooke Baxter West, is praying for meaning this Christmas. I'm going to write this review to two different groups of readers. 1 - Readers who have read all of the Baxter books before and 2 - Readers who are being introduced to the Baxter family for the first time. Group 1, you're up first. I'm a member of this group since I've read all 23 books that precede this one. What bothered me about this book were actions taken by some of the characters that I found unbelievable. These actions didn't make the Baxters feel like the characters that I've grown to love. Then there were details and portions of the storyline that didn't match up with previous books. I don't want to say much more than that for fear of spoilers but as a reader of the Baxter books I was a little disappointed about these elements of the story. It hurts me to say but this book was a 3-star read because of the above-mentioned. If it wasn't for Erin's surviving daughter, Amy it would have remained a 3-star book. However, each time Amy was involved I sniffled my way

through that scene. Her heartbreak became my heartbreak. Amy and the emotions I felt for her made this book for me. Karen always manages to pull at my heart-strings and she did that with Amy. I also enjoyed seeing Maddie at age 18. Group 1, you'll remember Maddie and what happened to her sister, Hayley. At the time of the incident it wasn't explored how Maddie felt back then. I liked seeing Maddie now trying to deal with the trauma of that event. In conclusion Group 1, look for something special at the end of the book. I believe lovers of the Baxters will enjoy it. Group 2, you're next. The things I mentioned above probably won't bother you because you won't have the in-depth background Group 1 has with the Baxter family. I think you'll enjoy this read and want to go back and read the previous books, which I highly recommend you do. But don't worry! You can absolutely read this book without reading the others. A Baxter Family Christmas begins with an introduction to the family. Who is who, how old they are, who their kids are etc. You'll simply want to read the rest of the books to fill in the greater details of storylines mentioned here. In the end reader friends, this is a really quick read (less than 2 hours total reading time according to my Kindle). It's a good way to pass an afternoon snuggled up in your favorite reading spot. While there were instances when I wanted more, ultimately I believe old fans of the Baxters or new will enjoy this book. I received an advanced copy of this book from NetGalley.

I truly enjoyed reading this book. I found myself with tears many times. This was hard because I was reading it while travelling in a plane. I constantly wiped tears. I have a hard time around the holidays because of lack of family. This family is so blessed to have each other. I can't help but think that the author, Karen Kingsbury, writes from what she has in her family. It's obvious by how she starts her books out with each of her children and where they are in their lives at the writing of each book. As I have come to know the Baxters, I feel like I know her family as well. Thanks Karen for bringing the Baxter family back. Look forward to reading more of where their lives go from here. Karen truly is a gifted author.

Karen Kingsbury has created over the years a fascinating assortment of characters in her books, the first being the famous Baxter family. So it was a delight to know after so many years she was releasing the book Baxter Family Christmas. Within 219 enchanting pages, a reader can quickly catch up with the Baxter family whether a first or long time reader. When John Baxter welcomes a guest to Christmas Eve dinner, the lives of all involved at the table will see the blessings God creates in times of misfortune.

This was a book which involved many emotions. When I bought the book I wasn't too sure about it but I bought it and started reading it. It gives the reader an idea of how the donor program works. The different emotions each person feels and how they deal with it. It is the love of a family and getting through the loss of their loved one who became the donor. It made me think about could I, would I and how it would affect my family. It was a wonderful book to read and I am so glad I read it.

Story telling is a little simplistic for me. I know it's a novella but I just wanted something a little bit more. I'm a holiday novel lover and just wanted something a little bit more.

To many people to keep track of them. Slow moving, not that interesting, and heavy on the religion.

What a refreshing reintroduction to the Baxter family. I have read many books on the Baxter family, but none recently. Karen wove a refresher of the family's lives into the story line as the story unfolded. I wiped my own tears as Amy met the woman who had her mother's heart. Another great book by a master storyteller.

As a Christian, I found the characters were one-dimensional and the families too perfect. Christian families have all the complexities that non-Christian families have.

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