



## Waiting for Butterflies

*Karen Sargent*

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A mother's love never ends--not even when her life does.

Longing for her family after her sudden death, Maggie becomes a lingering spirit and returns home where she helplessly witnesses her family's downward spiral in the aftermath of her passing.

Her husband is haunted by past mistakes and struggles to redeem himself. Her teenage daughter silently drowns in her own guilt, secretly believing she caused her mother's death. Only her five-year-old, full of innocence, can sense her presence.

Although limited by her family's grief and lack of faith, Maggie is determined to keep a sacred promise and save her family before her second chance runs out.

A tender portrait of a mother whose love reaches beyond possible, WAITING FOR BUTTERFLIES will embrace your heart and not let go.

## **Waiting for Butterflies Details**

Date : Published April 4th 2017 by Walrus Publishing

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Author : Karen Sargent

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## From Reader Review Waiting for Butterflies for online ebook

### **Esther says**

This book deals with lots of tough subjects such as grief and forgiveness in a way that draws you in emotionally. The characters connect with you and I started seeing different personalities from my own family in some of them. I found myself thinking about the characters and the story at different times during the day and couldn't wait to get back to them and see how they were. I was very happy with this story and I would read more from this author.

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### **Joan says**

Sargent has crafted a very moving novel that centers on the mystery surrounding the intersection of the physical and spiritual worlds. It deals with the issue of how the remaining family members continue on after the loss of a loved one. The novel is very well written with well developed characters and a good plot line. You might want to have a tissue handy near the end.

The premise of the book is firmly founded on the possibility that Christians who have died can observe the remaining family members and can, at least a little, interact with physical things. Sargent includes, as part of the plot, a website that references "lingering spirits." I think this aspect of the book is on very thin theological ice. While it made for a touching story, I found the idea of a lingering spirit disconcerting and not supported biblically.

Questionable theology aside, this is a very well written and touching novel. It certainly made me think about loving family members and making sure they know it.

I received a complimentary digital copy of this book through Celebrate Lit. My comments are an independent and honest review.

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### **Megan Williams says**

Waiting for Butterflies was a phenomenal book. Once I started reading, I could not put it down. Karen Sargent does an amazing job at developing each character and providing the readers with a storyline that tugs at your heart strings. This story about Maggie and her husband Sam and their two daughters Olivia and Rachel and how they overcome a difficult situation drew out so many emotions in me. Through this book, she tells a story about a father's love that is incredibly deep and how the family deals with a circumstance through the help of a very important person. Throughout the book I was pulled to tears because of how relatable Waiting for Butterflies was. I related to the oldest daughter, Rachel in the book because she had to deal with and overcome many problems after a very sad event happened to her and that too has happened in my life. The more I read the more could relate to Rachel which made the book so real to me. This was one of the many reasons I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I can not wait to read this book again because of all of the incredible and heart-wrenching emotions it brought out in me.

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### **Sally Poyzer says**

This is a very sweet story that had me reading 'just a few more pages' when I should have been working! I think it's every mother's worst nightmare - dying while your kids are still little. But the mother in this story, Maggie, has a chance to observe and help her family before she goes to heaven. To enjoy this story you have to disengage the theological part of your brain (I read an interview with Karen before I read this book and it was helpful for me to see that she knows this isn't exactly orthodox Christian thinking!) and accept it for what it is - a beautiful fictional story of loss, grief, choices, faith, forgiveness and healing. Have the tissues nearby!

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### **Cathy Miller says**

What an amazing book! It drew me in from the very beginning. I loved the story line and the fact that it was about an ordinary family. I somehow felt connected to this family. Mrs. Sargent did an excellent job of making this story so believable. I would definitely read another book by this author.

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### **Julia says**

Waiting For Butterflies by Karen Sargent is a most beautiful contemporary Christian novel about a love that never dies. It is a study of grief so beautifully written that the words will penetrate your very soul.

Waiting For Butterflies is a work of fiction showing death is not the end. You cannot kill love. Everyone handles grief differently and needs to work through their grief to find a new type of 'normal.' The family in the novel was "trying to find our way back to normal." There was anger and emptiness to work through as best as one could. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. There is only immense pain.

Guilt is a normal part of grieving. There is always something left unsaid or something we wish we'd done differently. Regrets figure too and the pain of never having chance to say goodbye.

The novel has the difficult topic of self harm and a path of self destruction. Karen Sargent has written this with so much sensitivity that I, as the reader could 'feel' the pain and the relief as the blood flowed. The physical pain dulled the mental anguish to give a few minutes of something else to focus on. Karen Sargent captured the mood and the pain perfectly.

Faith and trust in God may help to navigate ones way through grief. There may be anger but God wants us to give Him our anger. What God doesn't want is withdrawal. He wants to help us in our pain. We need to continue to pray but sometimes all we can do is ask why. "While you are praying, do me a favour, ask God why." Prayer may be hard but it is "just talking to God." He wants us to continue to communicate with Him. Wading through grief is hard. It can be "a blanket of sorrow suffocating him." Karen Sargent has portrayed the mood sympathetically. The reader 'feels' the anguish, the pain, the despair.

There is also the subject of sin. "We've all sinned, but we're blessed that's not how the story ends." God provides grace to cover all our sins.

God has promised to never leave us. Sometimes the pain is so deep that we cannot feel or see God. It is only when we look back that we see His hands at work in our lives.

The novel shows that our mission field is right where we are. "I just try to do the next right thing." God can use you exactly where He has placed you. You do not need to travel abroad to spread the Good News.

There is the theme of healing - physically, mentally and spiritually. Our lives may be healed in ways we never thought possible as God sends people to cross our paths.

God is the God of restoration. The old house can be seen as a motif for our lives. It needs fixing up and as it

is mended bit by bit, so one day the house will be restored and whole again.

Families are important. Families need to pull together. Sometimes tragedies can blow them apart instead of uniting them in their grief.

Waiting For Butterflies was a most unusual but beautiful novel. The scenes 'spoke' to my soul. The love radiated out from the pages. The pain pierced my heart. The whole novel was beautifully written and left me feeling calm, peaceful and loved. I cannot urge you strongly enough to buy a copy and experience the beauty for yourself.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

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### **Fiction Aficionado says**

Make sure you have a tissue box handy when you pick this book up—you'll find yourself reaching for it on more than one occasion as you progress through the story. Karen Sargent has written a heartbreakingly, but ultimately healing journey for her characters as they come to terms with the death of Maggie, beloved wife and mother. It's one I couldn't help but be drawn into, and I found myself willing these characters to find their way and to reach out to one another—and God—in the process.

Before her death, Maggie kept a journal that had the following inscription on the front: If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies. For her, the butterfly became a visual reminder for those times when she began to fear the unknown, that good things—even beauty—can come from change. But for her husband, Sam, faith like Maggie's is incomprehensible in the face of her death. He has no idea how to balance his dual roles as a senior detective and a father now that Maggie is no longer here, and his grief is deep, both for his loss and his past and present failings.

For their eldest daughter Rachel, a sense of guilt over her mother's death causes her to make unwise choices, such as isolating herself from her best friend and those who love her. Her story becomes quite suspenseful toward the end, and leads to one of the most poignant moments in the novel: the moment Maggie understands the good that has been wrought through the last few months of agony her family has endured without her.

When I first read the description for this book, the fact that it described Maggie as a 'lingering spirit' gave me some pause. I wasn't sure how I would feel about this aspect of the book. However, as the author herself has stated, this is not a 'ghost' story, nor is it meant to suggest that people's spirits can linger in the way that Maggie's does. In many ways, Maggie's presence in the novel is a metaphor for the way in which a mother's love and influence continues to linger even when her physical body is no longer here. But fiction also gives us the ability to explore 'what if', and this novel does that in a respectful way—one that beautifully illustrates that good can come from even the most devastating changes.

This is a poignant debut novel, and I look forward to reading more from this author.

I received a copy of this novel from the author. This has not influenced the content of my review.

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### **Sandi Ward says**

Considering all of the emotional turmoil happening in politics and the news right now, I thought I could use an uplifting story that promises grace and redemption. I appreciate stories that take into account the spiritual life of the characters. Faith is sometimes overlooked in contemporary fiction. Yet characters who have been through tragedy and had their beliefs tested can be compelling to read about.

The story description gives away the fact that Maggie Blake, the mother in this story, dies unexpectedly. Her family (husband and two daughters) must deal with the aftermath. The mother's spirit senses that it will be hard for her family to heal, and so she cannot let go—yet. She lingers to try and influence events.

I worried alongside Maggie as I read about the difficulty her husband Sam has coping as a single father, and the bad choices her teenage daughter Rachel makes as she cannot reconcile the circumstances of her mother's death. The story is sweet and sentimental at times, yet also raw and real in the depiction of mistakes made by family members both in the past and present.

If you are a parent, you will find yourself nodding along with Maggie at the times she can only watch and worry about her loved ones. Whether or not you believe in the idea of benevolent angels (or ghosts), I think most readers will have no problem suspending disbelief to imagine Maggie amongst her loved ones, praying for their redemption. I think any parent will be able to relate and find hope in the Blake family story.

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### **Virginia Winfield says**

This was a fantastic book. Make sure to have Kleenex ready because you will need lots of them. I did not want to put this book down because I had to know how this family was going to cope with the tragedy that struck them. Each member of this family needed to learn to cope in their own way. This explains many aspects of a tragedy with beautiful words. I received a copy of this book from CelebrateLit for a fair and honest opinion that I gave of my own free will.

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### **Rachel says**

Oh my!! If you want to read a book that grabs your heart and won't let it go, you HAVE to read this book! Very well written, with lots of emotionally charged moments and real-to-life struggles that will keep you turning pages. And despite the tragedy that the story is based on, there is plenty of hope, healing, and miracles as the family learns to lean on each other and God to get them through.

I wasn't sure what to expect from a Christian "ghost" story but I was hooked from the beginning. After all, this is fiction and I read it with that viewpoint in mind. And I've read and seen plenty of other fiction that includes beings that have not "passed over" and I can't think of any that included a Christian theme. So this was actually a refreshing change.

This book was full of real life issues that include the tragic death of a young mom and how her family deals with their grief and feelings of guilt. You have the father who is suddenly thrust into the role of a single parent and has to make some life choices in order to do what is best for his family. You have the oldest daughter's downward grief spiral that will tear your heart out. And then you have the bright spot in the story - the youngest daughter who can still hear her mom's "lingering spirit" and tries to get the others to believe

too.

With real life issues such as infidelity, grief, guilt, drugs, cutting, and the danger of online predators, as well as the hope of family, healing, miracles, love and faith, you'll be hooked to the end!

\*Thanks to SLBTours for a complimentary copy of this book. I was not paid or required to write a positive review and all opinions stated are my own.\*

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### **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

Waiting for Butterflies by Karen Sargent is beautifully written and will most certainly hit you in all the feels. A family trying to pick up the pieces and survive in a new normal after a young mother's tragic death: a newly-single dad struggling to work past his own grief in order to take care of his girls, a teen in crisis, and an adorable five year old with the sweet faith of a child. And in a twist you don't see often in Christian fiction, a mother whose spirit lingers with her battered family – unsure why she's still there but determined to do what she can to save them from the destructive nature of their grief.

I'm not sure it's entirely scripturally accurate, but as the author points out it's not necessarily scripturally inaccurate. After all, what about the 'great cloud of witnesses' that are watching us run this race? Do we know the ins and outs and hows of this truth? I don't, for sure. This novel is more of a "what if" ... if God wanted to allow a spirit to linger, could He? Well, certainly. Because He's God. I don't know that I think He actually does but a delightful part of fiction is exploring the 'what-if' in life (and death), right?

Of all the characters, sweet little Olivia is my favorite. Her innocent – and confident – acceptance that her mother is still there, despite everyone else's understandable skepticism, is adorable and poignant all at once. Rachel, her older sibling, is heartbreakingly devastated – and the ways she chooses to manifest her grief. And Sam ... oh be still my gets-too-involved-in-characters-emotions heart. As he tries to balance work (as a detective) with his new and grief-filled role as a single dad, guilt from past mistakes threatens to choke out every last bit of faith he possesses. This is a family on the edge of destruction, and Maggie at first can only watch helplessly along with the reader. I loved watching Maggie figure out how to communicate, a need made even more urgent as her family starts to fall apart.

Bottom Line: Fair warning – make sure you have a box or ten of tissues nearby when you start reading Waiting for Butterflies. It's heartwrenching in parts, bittersweet in others. And while there are plenty of moments that lift your heart, you will also find yourself smothering ugly cries into the pillow in hopes that no one else will notice how much this book has undone you. The author exquisitely captures the raw emotions of all involved – including the reader – and creates a beautiful picture of enduring love and the kind of forgiveness only God can bring.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.)

see my review at Reading Is My SuperPower

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### **Shirley Davis says**

I loved the book. Well written. Keeps you guessing. Loved the Christian aspect. Cared about the characters, and really hope there's another book coming so I can find out what happens next in all their lives.

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### **Jeanette Fallon says**

What a beautiful story! I can't begin to tell you how this book touched me. I just put it down but it's message will stay with me forever.

It appears that Sam and Maggie have it all. But one accident changed everything. Can life ever be the same again? What needs to happen so the family can heal? With forgiveness comes healing.....

What an appropriate title- WAITING FOR BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies represent new life-rebirth. This is the journey that Sam, Rachel and Olivia must take to navigate their "new" normal without Maggie. Maggie can not be set free as a butterfly until she knows her family will be ok.

The characters in this book became so real to me. This shows how well Karen Sargent wrote this book.

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So thankful that I was given this to read for free for a review. Very emotional and touching story.

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### **Amy says**

Waiting for Butterflies was a book, at least for me, that was somewhat difficult to read. Not so much for the "controversy" itself, though that did have me wondering. I think it was really the time of year, I lost someone very precious 5 years ago at around this time, so this story was a bit more emotional for me.

The positives: the author writes well and even with a difficult subject drew me into the characters, all of them, and had me feeling their emotions. Each family member was suffering in a certain way and that made me want to hug each of them. I felt Maggie's death was senseless and so the actions that led up to her early demise upset me. It happens too much in real life. I felt for Maggie as I am a mother as well and I can't even imagine how she felt when she wanted to comfort her kids or her husband and she could not. She was watching her family from the outside and could not communicate with them as she had when she was alive. I didn't like her not belonging somewhere; she was just in a no man's land of sorts.

As far as the story goes, there is resolution at the end. It is not for everyone; especially in light of what belief you may have concerning what happens to people's souls when they pass away. This is author Sargent's 'what if' and I do so appreciate authors' imaginations, hence why I read fiction. To sum up my review: this

story is unique and asks questions that most of us have had at some point in our lives and proceeds to answer those questions in a heartfelt and heartbreakin story.

I received a copy of this book for free. I was not required to post a positive review and all views and opinions are my own.

<https://pausefortales.blogspot.com/20...>

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## **Sydney says**

Author Karen Sargent has written a stunning and emotionally engaging novel in Waiting for Butterflies. This story deals with raw emotions, dealing with grief, pain, loss, sorrow, healing, love, joy, and family bonds. The family dynamics in this story are absolutely beautiful. Readers will immediately fall in love with the family. And the children characters are fantastic. Bringing a whole new dynamic to this amazing story. Sargent brings to life real-to-life feelings that readers will easily understand and relate to. This is a powerful and inspiring novel that readers are not going to want to miss.

Genre: contemporary, romance, Christian, ghost story

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Book Rating: 5 stars

A review copy of this book was provided by the author via SLB Tours. A review was not required and all views and opinions expressed are my own.

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