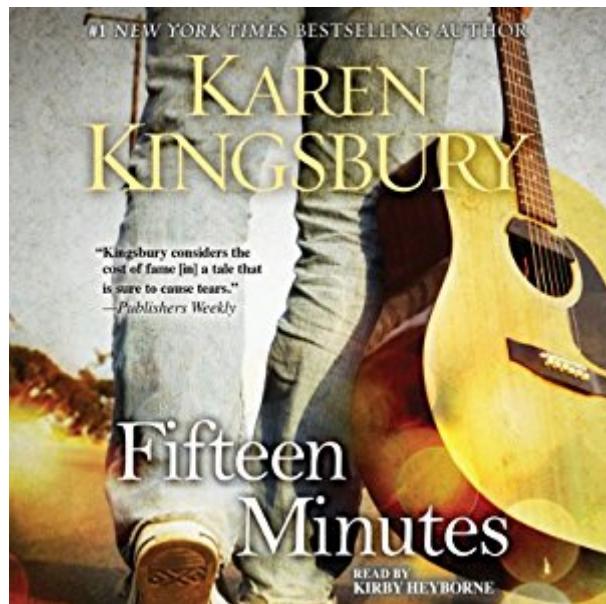


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Fifteen Minutes: A Novel



Synopsis

#1 New York Times best-selling author Karen Kingsbury shows why she is America's favorite inspirational novelist with this dramatic story about character, compromise, and the cost of having it all. Zack Dylan has a dream. He wants to sing on the biggest stages, for the biggest crowds, and he'll do whatever it takes to make it come true. But Zack also made a promise to his college sweetheart when he left Kentucky to compete on the popular TV show Fifteen Minutes: If he made it, nothing would change him or his faith in God. Overnight, Zack becomes the nation's most popular contestant, a country singer comparable to a young Tim McGraw. As his star rises, Zack is often asked to compromise and quiet his beliefs. Just as he's on the verge of winning it all, his choices lead him to the brink of personal disaster. Meanwhile, a former Fifteen Minutes winner is searching for meaning amidst her own private losses. Can she warn Zack about the real price of fame? Or will Zack lose everything he loves for his fifteen minutes of glory? From the novelist dubbed the "Queen of Christian Fiction" by Time magazine, Fifteen Minutes explores the cost of fame and celebrity set against the backdrop of America's favorite singing competition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 1 minute

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 29, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00DG9TWII

Best Sellers Rank: #125 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Religious Fiction #125 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Short Stories #2625 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Romance

Customer Reviews

I've been very critical of Kingsbury's most recent books, but I thought she did a good job on this one. Although few of us have to face the exact choices that Zack Dylan does, we all must make decisions that may lead us closer to or further away from God. And we're all pretty good at talking ourselves into things that deep down we know aren't good for us. So in that sense, the central conflict of this book rang true. Beyond that, I really liked several other things. The subplot of Kelly

Morgan finding her way back to her true self was moving. I thought the Chandra Olson story was powerful and compelling. And--good for Reese at the end. Karen could have gone for the quick resolution, and she resisted it. Nicely done. A couple of things were less effective. First, the early part of the story beat us over the head with the conflict: Zack's family and girlfriend were seriously worried about his plans. He kept insisting nothing would change him. You knew all along that it would. It was just a bit too obvious. Instead, Zack could have been developed more as a character: Why he loved singing, why he wanted to pursue it, other than his family needing money. I also felt that his motives--to help his financially struggling family--seemed real and even noble, and they weren't addressed with particular sympathy. If he was really one who would be so easily seduced by fame, this should have been made clearer in the beginning of the story. If he wasn't, then his rapid fall seems unlikely. This was a disconnect in the drawing of the main character. Second, Zack's "inability" to keep in contact with Reese seemed unrealistic. We live in a time of constant connection, and we're supposed to believe that for hours/days/weeks/months Zack is constantly too busy or in a place with no service? This is a tired plot device that Kingsbury has used over and over and over--the lovers can't communicate because they are kept apart, usually by mean parents/unscrupulous agents/remote set locations, etc., etc. It's getting a bit lazy, and it honestly makes me roll my eyes ("here we go again"). That said, this was her best book in quite awhile. Three stars because I agree with the other reviewers that Kingsbury has overdone it on the "fame" angle. At least this time, though, she said something thoughtful about it (beyond just Katy/Dayne or Bailey/Brandon running from the paparazzi). You can substitute "fame" for "any bad decision that leads you away from God and has a very real cost." In that regard, Kingsbury has returned to her Life-Changing Fiction roots.

In the novel *Fifteen Minutes* it feels like Zack becomes a star in under 15 minutes. A country star that some say sounds like Elvis. As he becomes more and more popular he is asked to do things against what he believes is right. Something that will send his personal life into a total disaster. Reese Weatherly, a therapeutic horse instructor, is not sure where her relationship stands with Zack or the wedding they dreamed about. While Zack is off perusing his dream, her dream comes knocking at her door but it will take her to the other side of the world. There is also Chandra who has suffered a lot of pain due from the media since her days as a contestant on *Fifteen Minutes*. Now she just wants to find purpose. Can her purpose be to help Zack or will he too lose and suffer a lot of pain due to the show? I would recommend this book to teens and adults and anyone who loves *American Idol* it has a lot of similarities to this book. A warning though you may pick up a tainted

view on the show. I am not sure how much of this is true or if Karen just wrote her book this way. It makes you wonder though how much does the show really do to get ratings. How much do they really control who wins and who goes through to the next round. I would also recommend this to any kids or teens that want to go into the entertainment business. It is not a decision to be taken lightly. I really enjoyed the characters in this book. It made you stop and think about the media and how celebrities are really affected. It makes you wonder how true this may be for many of the celebrities in our world today. This book is believable. It makes you think can fame really change a person? I think this book shows as so do the tabloids that yes it can, but doesn't it also show that every experience a person has in life changes them. Whether for better or worse. A reminder that you decide which way you will change in your heart. Even though this book is well written, full of suspense, drama and excitement, I struggled with the ending for this book. It didn't leave any closure. I am still waiting for a sequel. I rate this book a 4 out of 4 stars.

As always she writes an awesome story with great characters. But what bothers me is that this is a Christian author and I feel like she goes a little too in depth with some private things. Talks about going to bed with people and to me Christian fiction should be kept clean. We as Christians should not be thinking on lustful things. If I wanted to do that, I would read secular romance novels.

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