

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The title 'Redemption' is centered in the upper half of the image.

# Redemption

Written by Karen Kingsbury

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Published by griefconvention

# Table of Contents

Redemption Church .....	1
Redemption Church San Jose .....	2
Redemption Definition .....	3
Redemption Song .....	4
Redemption Song Lyrics .....	5
Redemption Project .....	6
Redemption Song Chords .....	7
Redemption Campbell .....	8
Redemption Movie .....	9

# Redemption

By Karen Kingsbury

## Redemption Church

The Redemption series won "Christian Retailing"™s 2005 Retailer™s Choice Award for Best Series! When Kari Baxter Jacobs finds out that her husband is involved in an adulterous relationship and wants a divorce, she decides she will love him and remain faithful to her marriage at all costs. This book shows how God can redeem seemingly hopeless relationships, and it illustrates one of Gary Smalley™s key messages: Love is a decision. "Redemption" is the first book in the five-book Redemption series that Gary and Karen will write about the Baxter family™their fears and desires, their strengths and weaknesses, their losses and victories. Each book will explore key relationship themes as well as the larger theme of redemption, both in characters™ spiritual lives and in their relationships. Each book includes study questions for individual and small-group use as well as a "teaser" chapter of the next book in the series.

I've read several reviews of this book that expressed the disappointment and disapproval of Karen Kingsbury promoting women staying with cheating husbands. I do not believe the author was saying that you have a Biblical responsibility to stay with a spouse who has cheated - because you don't. Adultery is a biblically justified reason for divorce. The main character in this story, Kari, deeply believed that God wanted her to stay with her husband and resolve the problems they had, and there is absolutely no shame in trying to fix a broken marriage.

I had a difficult time reading this when (view spoiler)[Kari found out that Ryan, her first love, hadn't betrayed her and if she had been a little more patient all of her dreams would have come true. It makes me wonder how many times my impatience has cost me something I have been so desperately wanting. I did want her to be with Ryan, but I knew that it was wrong while she was still married to Tim. I think too many people today think it is okay to be with someone while you are separated but still married to someone else. Just because the other person ended it emotionally first doesn't mean that your actions are any better than theirs. (hide spoiler)]

I also believe that Kari's persistence to follow what she believed God wanted to her to do concerning Tim was extremely encouraging. I can only imagine the hurt Kari felt when her husband betrayed her. Even the thought of my husband being like Tim makes my heart hurt. What would I do if Matthew looked at me with no emotion and told me he wanted a divorce and there was nothing I could say or do to change his mind? What if I knew he was spending every night in the arms of another woman? Could I

## Redemption

bear it? I don't know. But, I do know that the only way I could possibly make it through would be to lean on God which is what Kari did. She didn't believe she had the strength to fight for a marriage that she believed God wanted to be healed but her husband didn't. It's so easy to give up when things are really, really hard, but we have to remember that we first live for God and need to follow His guidance even when we don't understand why. ...more

## Redemption Church San Jose

Karen Kingsbury writes books that deal with issues all christians face at some time or another...the characters are flawed and human yet God is present in all their lives....

I beyond hated this book. I felt like the author was pushing her beliefs. Specifically, I felt like, thru her character, she was saying that God wanted women to stay with their cheating husbands. Even after getting caught the husband couldn't commit to ending the affair. And the wife stayed with him, not because she felt it was where God was leading HER, but because that is what christian women should do.

Let me say I have no personal experience with being cheated on, so it's not for that reason I beyond hated this book. I felt like the author was pushing her beliefs. Specifically, I felt like, thru her character, she was saying that God wanted women to stay with their cheating husbands. Even after getting caught the husband couldn't commit to ending the affair. And the wife stayed with him, not because she felt it was where God was leading HER, but because that is what christian women should do.

Let me say I have no personal experience with being cheated on, so it's not for that reason that this rubbed me so wrong. I just think that the path for one person may not be the path for another. It felt like the author was making a statement, not writing a fictional situation with fictional characters.

...more

## Redemption Definition

The best TV shows are the ones that end with you wanting to know what happens next. The ones that you season pass on your TiVo because you don't want to miss any part of the storyline. The ones where each episode leads into the next and is connected to all of the ones that came before it. Those are my favorite kind of shows.

So it's no surprise, I'm a sucker for any books that are part of a series. I love that by the end of a good series each of the characters is developed so thoroughly that I feel like I know them personally. The best TV shows are the ones that end with you wanting to know what happens next. The ones that you season pass on your TiVo because you don't want to miss any part of the storyline. The ones where each episode leads into the next and is connected to all of the ones that came before it. Those are my favorite kind of shows.

So it's no surprise, I'm a sucker for any books that are part of a series. I love that by the end of a good series each of the characters is developed so thoroughly that I feel like I know them personally. And I'm sad to see them go.

Two years ago I did a giveaway on my blog and asked readers for book recommendations. One of the top recommendations was the book *Redemption* by Karen Kingsbury. I had no idea when I bought it that it was part of a five-book series. I just finished reading the fifth and final book of the series and wanted to let everyone know about these great books. I used *Redemption* in one of *Fluent British's* book swaps, and everyone that read it loved the book.

So here I am taking that recommendation and passing it on to you. Karen Kingsbury's *Redemption* series is about people like you and me. It's about a family that goes through trials, struggles, and hardships. About individuals that sometimes forget their faith but always eventually come back around. About relationships between friends, family, lovers, neighbors, and strangers. It's about life. Life as I know it and life as you know it. And I recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a way to remember that no matter what happens, no matter how bad it gets, it will always be okay.

So if you're looking for a good book, I've got five for you. *Redemption*, *Remember*, *Return*, *Rejoice*, and *Reunion*. ...more

As I made my way through the cheaters' contrition tour, Amazon's cross-selling carousel (Customers who bought this item also bought) exposed me to indie and fringe titles I would not normally encounter, including two works of Christian/inspirational fiction. The tour was all about examining a broad spectrum of representations of cheating in romance (and quasi-romance) fiction, so I decided this was a valid and relevant perspective to read.

A pop-up review of the first inspy cheating book I read As I made my way through the cheaters' contrition tour, Amazon's cross-selling carousel (Customers who bought this item also

## Redemption

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A pop-up review of the first inspy cheating book I read (*Devotion* by Marianne Evans): stripped of the charactersâ€™ propensity for filtering everything through scripture, *Devotion* would be a middle-of-the-road straying husband story with the predictable â€œit was just an infatuationâ€• remorse, couples counseling and recommitment to the marriage, and an otherwise blameless wife shouldering a percentage of the blame because she got too busy with charitable works to be attentive to her husband. The scripture was not a compelling overlay for me, but I donâ€™t feel qualified to comment on its effectiveness for readers who do filter their life choices through Bible passages.

Then thereâ€™s the irony that is *Redemption*.

Our story starts with the husband in bed with the OW at her apartment. Heâ€™s a journalism professor; sheâ€™s a grad student in the program. They met in his class, though they didnâ€™t have sex until the course was over, because that would be unethical. He is completely in love with this young woman, who is his intellectual equal (as well as hot), and he is so over his beautiful-but-unintellectual wife.

A jealous former boyfriend of the OW phones the wife to tip her off to the affair, giving her the address of the OWâ€™s apartment. In her doubt, the wife tries to reach the husband at the conference heâ€™s supposed to be attending that weekend, only to discover there is no journalism conference at the hotel he named and her husband definitely doesnâ€™t have a room there. (I love the brazenness of his leaving contact details for a fictional conference at a random hotel while he spends the weekend at the OWâ€™s place. Thatâ€™s some high-stakes gambling or a deep desire to get caught.) The wife then drives to the apartment complex identified by the anonymous caller and sees her husbandâ€™s car. \*gasp\* She triggers his car alarm, and he emerges all sleep-tousled to turn it off. \*gasp\* When he spots his wife but makes no move to approach her, she jumps back in her car and drives off.

The husband returns to their apartment the next morning and flatly tells his wife he doesnâ€™t want to be married to her anymore. She declares she will not give him a divorce, and starts in about them seeking counseling with their pastor. At this point, Iâ€™m actually feeling a little sorry for the husband, because he isnâ€™t being heard. His feelings for his wife are dead. His love for her is no more. It has ceased to be. It's expired. IT IS NOT PINING FOR THE FJORDS. He moves in with the OW, and I google to see if itâ€™s actually possible for one spouse to block a divorce. (Delay, yes. Prevent, no.)

So the impact of Christianity on this scenario is that she feels called upon by God to preserve their marriage, and he is deliberately turning his back on God to pursue a relationship with the OW.

(view spoiler)[The wife temporarily moves in with her parents for emotional support and meets up with an old boyfriend who supposedly betrayed her when they were young then went off to play

## Redemption

professional football. The cheating husband descends into godless alcoholism. The wife discovers she is pregnant, and drops that bomb on a phone call with her husband. The husband returns to their apartment, where he finds a letter from his wife which also mentions the pregnancy. The wife returns to their apartment, where she finds her husband in a drunken stupor on the bathroom floor. No sympathy is spared: he is disgusting and unappealing and she can't believe she is called upon to love him, but by God, she will find a way.

They go through counseling. He breaks it off with the OW with the exact same self-involved thought process he had re: how difficult it was going to be to break up with his wife. The consistent weaselliness is really off-putting. They trudge forward in an effort to repair their marriage, and we're told they're making progress (they laugh together, but sexual intimacy is out and frankly I'm not seeing a lot of love in this marriage) when the OW contacts the husband with the news that she is pregnant. The husband feels greatly inconvenienced by this news. (She's lying, btw.)

I have absolutely no idea what the husband intended to do about the OW's non-existent pregnancy, but he decides to visit her apartment to tell her their relationship is definitely over. Her stalker boyfriend (remember him? He told the wife about the affair?) is lurking outside the apartment and shoots the husband three times in the chest. With his dying words, the husband begs the OW to tell his wife he loved her.

After the appropriate gestational period, the grieving widow gives birth and their baby gives her a renewed hope and reason to live. Also, her former boyfriend the former football player shows up in her hospital room to cuddle the baby and offer to help.

Even though the stalker boyfriend and his gun had been recurring characters since the first chapter, I am still shocked this book's resolution to the problem of the cheating husband is to kill him to clear the path for the former boyfriend. Like, secular romance/women's fiction doesn't KILL THE CHEATER. Hats off to the ironically titled Redemption. (hide spoiler)] ...more

## Redemption Song

I'm giving it 50 pages... which corresponds exactly to the first four chapters. If I don't like it by then, I will abandon yet another book and add to my arsenal of thoughts about why I don't like fiction.

Wish me luck.

UPDATE: I'm 140 pages into this book which was described to me as "life-changing."

So far, I give it an emphatic "eh." I've already read phrases like "hit him like a Mack truck," and "deeper than a canyon." I've already read through scenes containing the exaggerated speech of a druggie. I'm giving it 50 pages... which corresponds exactly to the first four chapters. If I don't like it by then, I will abandon yet another book and add to my arsenal of thoughts about why I don't like fiction.

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So far, I give it an emphatic "eh." I've already read phrases like "hit him like a Mack truck," and "deeper than a canyon." I've already read through scenes containing the exaggerated speech of a drunken man, and the melodramatic hesitation over dialing the last digit of a phone number.

Oh, and a character named Dirk. DIRK.

So, the writing isn't riveting, is all I am saying. It's Christian-y in ways that make me want to gag a little. And, despite the superficial 'messiness' of the characters involved in the conflict, they are messy in very neat, predictable ways. Not messy like in real life. It's starting to really read like morality play.

And I'm getting a little uncomfortable with the continual assertion by the main character that seems to follow this pattern: God wouldn't let it happen this way unless he was eventually going to work it out for me.

It remains to be seen if she wises up on that score. For that reason, I'll keep reading (along with the reason I read past my intended 50 pages, which is that I feel like I need to read it all to be able to creditably say that I didn't like the book.) So, I will finish the book... even though I think I already know how it is going to end. Only 219 pages left to go. (But who is counting, right?)

Seriously hoping this book surprises me, but not counting on it.

THE FINAL VERDICT:

Redemption

Eh.

This is basically a Christian soap opera. I can appreciate what Kingsbury and Smalley are trying to accomplish through this book - I have been encouraged in a few aspects of my faith, but I am not the sort to take a lot of life lessons from fiction. So all I am left with is, was this a good story?

It isn't an awful story. Contrived. A bit hokey. But not awful. Being that this book is the first in a series, a lot of groundwork was laid down for the storylines of the later novels. However, I can't say that I am dying to know what happens to these characters. As 'real' as they were supposed to be, they were just TOO much of whatever trait they were supposed to portray. They came in and out of behaviors too quickly and too conveniently. And I found Ryan's behavior at the end downright creepy.

Add in here the believability of having two girls in the same family, both incredibly beautiful, both sought after by anyone with an X chromosome, and both with men who have pined after them since they were teenagers. Maybe this is my problem with fiction, but that kind of stuff just isn't believable.

As for the story itself, I thought the ending was very convenient, both in terms of the plot for the next book, and also for the romantics who want the perfect ending. The writing was pretty weak too. On more than one occasion, a character felt things "with every fiber of his being." There is a really bad metaphor of a sinking ship that was totally unnecessary. There was a photographer who wore a beret and said things along the lines of 'work with me baby.' And, to describe one character, Kingsbury wrote that she could not have been more disgusted if someone had dumped ten spiders down her sweater. I guess I'm just saying that this is not the kind of writing that really draws me in.

So the bottom line is this: I'd read the next novel in this series if I wanted some light, escape reading. But the book would probably have to be readily accessible. I don't see myself hunting it down and devouring it by next week. ...more

This is not my first time reading REDEMPTION from the Karen Kingsbury Redemption series. I had read the first three books in the series when they first came out, but then I got out of step. I continued to purchase all the books in the set and the seriesâ€™ that followed, but always felt I needed to go back to the beginning and re-read before I continued on into the other series that dovetail off of this one. So, between my other scheduled readings, I have committed to get up to speed on the multiple series put out by Kingsbury. All that to say my reviews will probably be short and to the point.

The Redemption series follows the Baxter family. The Baxterâ€™s seem to be a genuine, close knit family, but there are many fractures under the surface. REDEMPTION tells the story of Kari Baxter

## Redemption

Jacobs. When she discovers her husband, a respected professor, is having an affair with one of his students, her life comes apart at the seams. Wanting to do everything she can to save her marriage, she refuses to give up on her husband. But, when her old high-school sweetheart shows up on the scene, and would like to pick up where they left off, Kari is torn between forgiveness and anger, temptation and commitment. What ensues is a roller-coaster of emotions and a horrible tragedy. Kari's strength on all counts will be tested.

It took a little while to get back into this book. I think it's because Christian fiction has grown by leaps and bounds since this series debuted in 2002. About a third of the way in, the momentum picked up and I remembered why I liked Karen's writing. I like stories that are realistic, not cookie-cutter, and the troubles that plague the Baxter family make them human. I am half way through REMEMBER, the second in the series and will post more when I am finished.

...more

## Redemption Song Lyrics

I think a lot of people rate this book for the message it gives: Love is a Decision

If my opinion would have been based solely on this I would also give it five stars, Karen truly brought the theme through beautifully.

But I don't just read for a theme or a messages, I want an intriguing plot and full well developed characters. I want a clear line between whose point of view I'm reading.

For me this was the biggest issue, there were so many characters that sounded the same, that felt the exact same I think a lot of people rate this book for the message it gives: Love is a Decision

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For me this was the biggest issue, there were so many characters that sounded the same, that felt the exact same thing, and described it the exact same way. I get that this is the first book in a series, but there where so many unwanted characters and thoughts brought in, that at stages it was just to much.

This is my second Kingsbury novel and to be honest I was disappointed, the plot for this book and A Time to Dance was almost the exact same plot, cheating husband dedicated wife, supporting family that doesn't quite understand. The plot was not really a surprise for me in any way. I predicted the ending so accurately when I hit the forty percent mark it was an "I told you so" ending.

I really like the christian fiction and would try other books, I'm just not sure it will be Karen Kingsbury's books. ...more

I can honestly say, I am not someone who pushes faith on anyone - I know I am a Christian; however I don't read the Bible religiously; I don't attend church faithfully and I don't pray on a daily basis. With that being said - anyone who is familir with the works of Karen Kingsbury knows she is a Christian writer and her writing incorporates versus from the Bible and includes a deep faith in Family, Love, Prayer and most importantly - God. I belive in all of that - however I don't act on it openl I can honestly say, I am not someone who pushes faith on anyone - I know I am a Christian; however I don't read the Bible religiously; I don't attend church faithfully and I don't pray on a daily basis. With that being said - anyone who is familir with the works of Karen Kingsbury knows she is a Christian writer and her writing incorporates versus from the Bible and includes a deep faith in Family, Love, Prayer and most importantly - God. I belive in all of that - however I don't act on it openly. But in reading this first book of this series, I have to say this writing was amazing and the story drew me in. I loved falling in love with the Baxter family and every turn of the page drew me in. I immediately went to the library and checked ou the next 4 books and have read all 5 books. This series follows the Baxers who include the parents (John and Elizabeth) and their 5 adult cihldren who face a world of trials and tribulations from first loves;

## Redemption

to divorce; to death; to adoption; and other tragedies and celebrations. All the while leaning on each other and God for support, guidance and strength. I was thoroughly impressed with this series and I am very happy I was introduced to her work. ...more

## Redemption Project

The First book of an entire three set series called the Redemption series, the forgiven series and the sunrise series. All following the life of the Baxter family. 6 children, multiple grandchildren, a husband and a wife and the story of their lives and their children. This book in specific begins with the struggles of one of the eldest daughters, Kari and her cheating husband. We get a sense of the entire family and how much they love one another through the love of Christ. The focus, redemption

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I reviewed this book several years ago, so this is a reread review. I can tell you that my thoughts then were high on this book and not much has changed through the years. Mrs. Kingsbury's books were introduced to me by my mother many years ago, and I was hooked. Redemption was one of the first Kingsbury books that I read, and it is one of my favorites. I was instantly hooked on it the first time I read it, and the reread was no different. Whenever I find myself in a book funk, or I suffer a tragedy in my life, I pick up Redemption and am reminded that with God's redeeming grace, I can pull through anything.

As someone who went through a bad first marriage, this book truly hits home for me. There are many elements of the book that I went through but I didn't lean on God through it all like Kari did. I loved watching her character again. It truly felt like reuniting with a long lost friend. The pain and suffering she felt, once again became my own. The sadness and the struggling, were mine. I found myself wanting to wrap her in a big old hug and fall to my knees to pray for her.

This is definitely still a 5 star book in my opinion. Mrs. Kingsbury can create a novel that will suck you in, wrap you up in God's warmth and grace, and set you down in a brand new place. Her words will stay with you long after you've shut the pages, long after you've placed the book back on the shelf. She will leave you breathless and ready for the next book. I highly recommend this book to all!

\*I purchased this book for my personal collection. Caffeinated Reads was under no obligation to post a

Redemption

review, positive or negative.\* ...more

## Redemption Song Chords

I'm really surprised at how much I enjoyed this, as I'm very skeptical of Christian fiction books that either depict characters through rose-colored glasses or employ conversion as a plot device or major moral turning point for wayward characters. Refreshingly, this had neither. The story involves Kari, a young wife; her husband Tim; Kari's family, the Baxters; and Kari's former (and still current) love, Ryan. Tim is a journalism professor and begins a very passionate affair with a student that I'm really surprised at how much I enjoyed this, as I'm very skeptical of Christian fiction books that either depict characters through rose-colored glasses or employ conversion as a plot device or major moral turning point for wayward characters. Refreshingly, this had neither. The story involves Kari, a young wife; her husband Tim; Kari's family, the Baxters; and Kari's former (and still current) love, Ryan. Tim is a journalism professor and begins a very passionate affair with a student that causes him to leave his wife. As the title implies, it is a story of redemption, about how (and why) Kari and Tim reconcile, and how Kari and Tim address the sin issues in their lives that led to the estrangement that developed in their marriage prior to the affair.

The characters' inner dialogue was spot on. My biggest complaint was that the main characters (aside from Tim) were exceedingly beautiful, intelligent, financially successful, and virtuous. Granted, we all know families like this, the kind who go to church together as a family and live in a big, comfortable house where youth group meets, and seems to have no problems on the surface. So it is not inconceivable to me that a family like the Baxters exists. However, Kari and Ryan's rekindled romance following Tim's affair with the student was unbelievably G-rated. If their feelings for each other were as strong as they described, I can't believe there wasn't real temptation to do more than kiss. Ryan, especially, seemed unusually restrained for a guy in his position.

I'll be reading Book #2 in the series! ...more

SERIES:

## Redemption Campbell

This book is about The Baxter's. John and Elizabeth have 5 adult children, Erin, Brooke, Kari, Ashley and Luke. The book tells the story of things families deal with daily, love, loss, grief, happiness, sadness. I felt as if I knew all of them and I believe an author has done a great job when you relate to the characters as real people. I will definitely finish the series. I love the Baxters.

Karen Kingsbury leads you on an emotional roller coaster in the story of Redemption. Personally this one was extremely painful. I don't mean in a negative way but it felt so real and relative that my heart hurt from beginning to end.

My favourite elements to this story are:

1. while there are main characters it's not written from one or two characters POV. Each of the lives of the Baxter family and their nearest & dearest were explored individually. Some more than others.
2. The Word of God informs us of many things but how does that look in reality? Karen Kingsbury leads you on an emotional roller coaster in the story of Redemption. Personally this one was extremely painful. I don't mean in a negative way but it felt so real and relative that my heart hurt from beginning to end.

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1. while there are main characters it's not written from one or two characters POV. Each of the lives of the Baxter family and their nearest & dearest were explored individually. Some more than others.
2. The Word of God informs us of many things but how does that look in reality? Karen Kingsbury paints a beautiful, truthful & painful picture bringing Biblical principles to life.
3. I love how scripture is used.
4. I love that God has his own voice.
5. I love that the consequences of disobeying the principles of God are driven home throughout the story. It causes you to stop, reflect and examine your heart and your personal walk as a believer in Christ.

Overall I loved this story. It made me cry, scream, shout, cry and also smile.

Karen Kingsbury's writing is very captivating. I can not wait to read more about the lives of the Baxter family in this series. I am hooked!

I listened to the audio version. Narrated by "Sandra Burr" who I give 5 stars throughly enjoyed listening to this on audio. Finished within 48hrs :).

Recommended to all Christian contemporary fiction fans. Don't let the fact that it was written 16 years ago put you off. This story is as much relative now as it was when it was first written.

Redemption

Warning: If you have had adultery challenges in your marriage this story may be very raw and difficult to read.

...more

## Redemption Movie

I think I've found a new author that I love â• ¢ I think I've found a new author that I love â• ¢  
...more

I kept having to force myself to keep reading. It is a story that was obviously hung upon the co-authors' idea of Biblical marriage which is shaky at best. I can put up with a half-hearted, unbelievable story with flat characters, but completely ignoring advice from the apostle Paul about marriage (he said if your unbelieving spouse wants a divorce you should let them in 1 Cor 7:15) and not even addressing the issue of the Baxter family's underlying dysfunctional relationships was too much for me. I kept having to force myself to keep reading. It is a story that was obviously hung upon the co-authors' idea of Biblical marriage which is shaky at best. I can put up with a half-hearted, unbelievable story with flat characters, but completely ignoring advice from the apostle Paul about marriage (he said if your unbelieving spouse wants a divorce you should let them in 1 Cor 7:15) and not even addressing the issue of the Baxter family's underlying dysfunctional relationships was too much for me to take. Granted, the guy that wanted a divorce came back to God but only AFTER he found out that his wife was pregnant. I felt pretty disrespected as a reader that we were supposed to just believe that Tim was going to now be a good husband and Kari would be happy. I'm also pretty upset about the "it was all a misunderstanding," situation with Ryan. I mean, really. You can't be THAT in love with someone and not even want an explanation when he suddenly wants a new girlfriend. I just don't believe it. I feel very manipulated into wanting to read the other books by underhanded comments that were left unexplained. You shouldn't get your readers I read the next books in the series by bringing things up you don't intend to explain until 3 books from now. This isn't a TV show where you get the audience to hang on through the commercial break by postponing the results of the voting until then. Maybe some people like that kind of thing in their books, I don't know, but I like series that tell new stories. I keep reading because I like the characters, the story (and what I learn from it) and come away feeling accomplished; Not bullied into buying another book. ...more