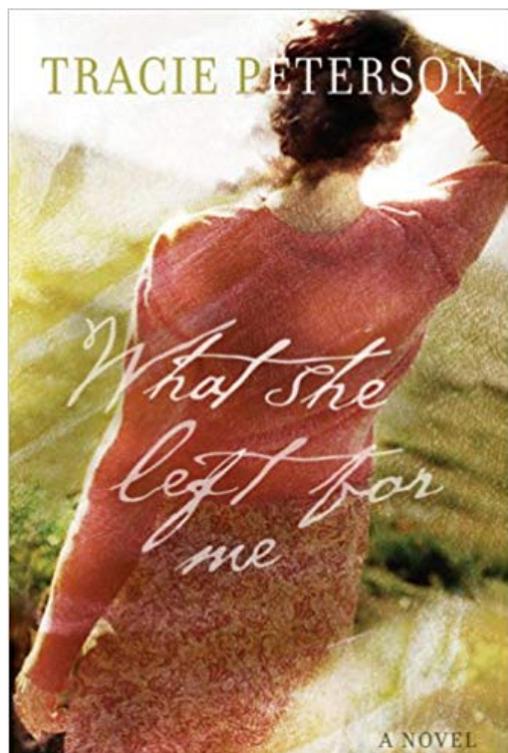


What She Left for Me *by* Tracie Peterson



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ISBN: 0764200992

ISBN13: 978-0764200991

Author: Tracie Peterson

Book title: What She Left for Me

Pages: 352 pages

Publisher: Bethany House Pub; Large type / large print edition edition (July 1, 2005)

Language: English

Category: Genre Fiction

Size PDF version: 1981 kb

Size ePUB version: 1115 kb

Size DJVU version: 1320 kb

Other formats: mobi doc mbr txt

Jana reluctantly turns to her mother--Eleanor--after her pastor husband leaves her for his secretary, but when Jana's presence only strikes up painful memories and guilt, she and her mother must decide whether they will allow God's spirit to bring true healing. Simultaneous.



Reviews of the *What She Left for Me* *by* Tracie Peterson

skyjetttt

Many reviewers speak of how Peterson's writing draws them in, with believable characters and relatable plots. Include me in that group! But since I'd just read "A Slender Thread", I was disappointed at how similar were the story lines. Both deal with women whose mothers cannot show love and fathers who were absent, dead or dysfunctional. The parallel even includes a spiritually mature and wise older woman who is the glue holding the family together.

Peterson does not shy away from tough subjects, as this one includes infidelity, rape and incest, nor do all her characters seek redemption before the story ends. In this one she also demonstrates the truth that not only does satan send people to church - he sends them to seminary, too.

Forgiveness is the major theme, and all three women characters must come to the place where they can offer it/accept it. Since this is a N.T. truth most of us struggle with, I recommend the book while at the same time squirming at my own weakness in this area.

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Mustard Forgotten

The way people reviewed this book from a negative view caused me to wonder just what was going to be told that was so detailed and explicit. There was nothing of the sort. Although the book did make clear that people had been abused, it did not go into anything like a play by play description, it did not drone on and on about the episodes. If you are married, you have probably told your sister or best friend what you and your hubby did on a romantic weekend that this book tells about the sexual acts referred to.

I must admit that it sucked me in as my hubby cheated on me many years ago. I was able to forgive him thru God's grace, and we have had a great marriage since then. I really related to the way Jana thought - what did I do wrong, why did God let this happen, etc. I have long since resolved these things for me, but the book reminded me of how many women struggle with this from day to day. My parents were very distant when I was a child, and seemed unable to say much good to me, but I did not have the physical issues. However, I still have scars, and I could relate to what happened to the girls in the book as well.

I was glad that the romance angle was played down. Women do not have to have a man in their lives to be content. We are able to come close to God in our own rights, not just with a man. Her thoughts were for Christ to help her, not so much that pastor. I was pleased with that.

All in all, a good book.

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Uranneavo

Eleanor was raised in a hippies commune during the 60's. It was a time of "freedom" from the establishment, drugs being consumed openly & uninhibited promiscuity. As a young teen, Eleanor was sexually molested by a close family member. Drugs took its toll on her mom & all the residents. As the commune's doctor, her dad struggled to save them all. Eleanor learned to close her heart off to pain & sorrow. At 14, she went to live with her Aunt Taffy & Uncle Cal. Again, she was raped by a close relative & became pregnant. She kept herself closed off, even from her baby girl Jana. As she grew up, Jana had to become self reliant because of her mom's seemingly hard heart. When Jana's preacher husband ran off with his secretary she realized that she was pregnant, had to move from their church's house, then discovered he'd cleaned out their bank accounts & taken her great aunt's jewelry! How will she survive, much less provide for her baby? The only answer is to move in with her mom & great aunt Taffy. Can she & her mom get along enough to live together. Even though Taffy's home is huge Jana has serious doubts. Can she & her mom turn to God again? Can she forgive the woman who ran off with her husband? This is a very intense book about child molestation, abuse, rape & infidelity. It shows God doesn't stop those things from happening. But, God does give us the strength to get through devastating times in our lives.

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Saithi

totally different type book that I do not normally read. But I got started and kept wanting to know how it ended. I really wanted to read more about Jana but most was about her mother. But, I guess, to understand things you need to know about her mother.

I would have preferred this if there had been less about her mother, possibly if that had been condensed I would have like this book better.

--- A for "some sexual content" - there really isn't any explicit descriptions - only the fact that later in the book you find out that one had been raped years before and her father had been intimate with his daughter.

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LoboThommy

This is the first book I have read by this author. I so enjoyed seeing how she wrote how God can help and heal us but we have to want it. This book tells a sad story about how sin and selfishness defined 4 generations. Finally when the aunt convinced her nieces that God had not forsaken them the healing process started. This book shows how God is blamed for everything that goes wrong in our lives but when we take time to study things out we find where the blame lies. I would recommend this book to anyone who is hurting who feels unloved or rejected. It will point you to a solution.

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Pringles

The plot was intriguing to me as Peterson weaves together the lives of three generations of women from this very dysfunctional family, using their individual and collective tragedies and hardships to tell a cohesive story. Although my life has been pretty sheltered and my problems seem small compared to the sufferings of these characters, I've still faced the decisions to choose "the better way" to deal with my little dilemmas. As a believer in Jesus Christ and an avid student of the Bible, I enjoyed the author's biblical explanations of the power of God in these lives to produce redemption and forgiveness. And her description of the misery that vindictiveness can cause in life is spot-on!! I'm still trying to figure out whether the word "Left" in the title means "walked away from" or "left remaining," so this book is staying around in my mind for a while.

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