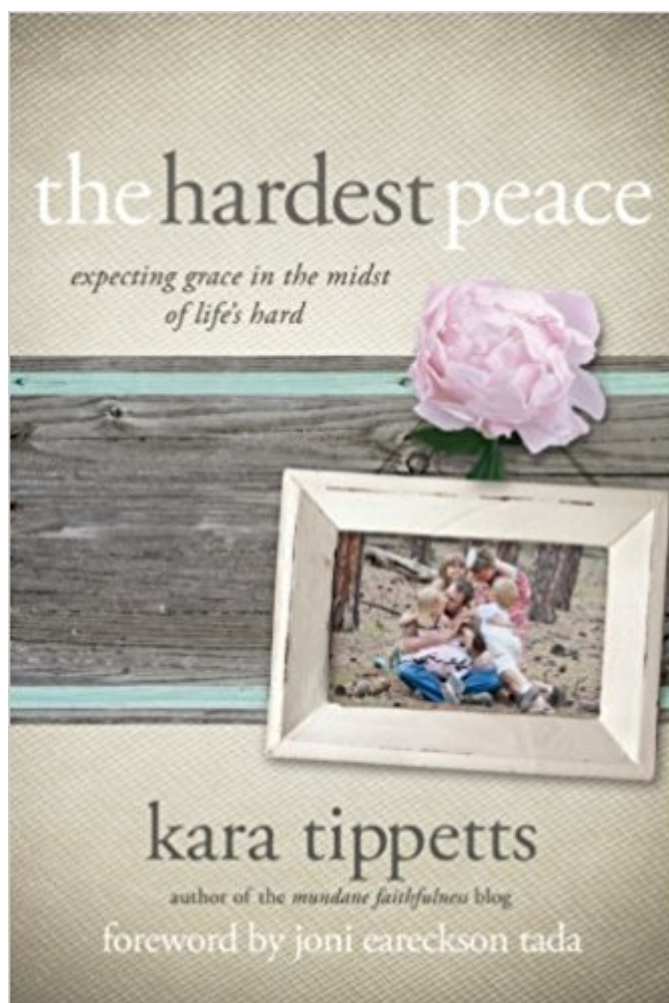


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The Hardest Peace: Expecting Grace In The Midst Of Life's Hard



Synopsis

Kara Tippetts knows the ordinary days of mothering four kids, the joy of watching her children grow ... and the devastating reality of stage-four cancer. In *The Hardest Peace*, Kara doesn't offer answers for when living is hard, but she asks us to join her in moving away from fear and control and toward peace and grace. Most of all, she draws us back to the God who is with us, in the mundane and the suffering, and who shapes even our pain into beauty. Winner of the 2015 Christian Book Award® in the Inspiration category.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Losing myself in the startling light of Kara's story, I have found who I am, who He is, and more of the meaning of every breath." • Ann Voskamp, New York Times best-selling author of *One Thousand Gifts* --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

The late Kara Tippetts was the author of *The Hardest Peace* (winner of the 2015 Christian Book Award® in the Inspiration category) and blogged faithfully at mundanefaithfulness.com. Cancer was only a part of Kara's story. Her real fight was to truly live while facing a crushing reality. Since her death in March 2015, her husband, Jason, is parenting their four children and leading the church they founded in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I started reading "the Hardest Peace" yesterday afternoon and rarely put it down until I finished it

this a.m. Now a little background. I have been following Kara's blog for awhile. When she was here in WNC, her once hometown in the Blue Ridge, Appalachian Mtns., I attended her conference. I purposely didn't buy the book as I thought, "I've heard her speak, followed her blog. This will be just another book to languish on my dusty bookshelves." Nay Nay, Nannette, I was wrong. I felt a strong urge last week to read this and also purchase one for a friend who personally knew Kara. The book is, objectively, a good read and much more. Of course, as you would surmise from Kara's background based, it is based on Christian teachings. If you are not a Christian or have had a rocky road with Christianity, please don't let that prevent you from reading this book. This is a voice "in the wilderness" in my multitude of opinions. This is a raw and utterly transparent heart speaking to mothers, wives, women, men and husbands who at anytime experience the loneliness of the human condition.....Truly, I was astonished at what I read.

The Hardest Peace is Kara's story from start to present. She gives us a snapshot of the messy of her life prior to faith. She introduces us to her husband and their story. She lets us peek in on her four children and the wonder of them in her life. She brings us to Colorado Springs from North Carolina and we hear of how tough moving to Colorado was from day one. She talks about the life she and Jason thought they were going to live and the life they have had to accept. She is candid about the life her family will live without her and how she is trying to prepare all of them for that day and time. Kara is dying. The cancer is not going to turn back and retreat at this point. All treatments are to buy as much time as possible. Just a few weeks ago she shaved her head for the second and last time. Kara knows she will die bald. The treatments ensure that. Kara shares from a place of deep peace and grace. She can do so because of the big love she has experienced in Christ. She is thoughtful in her story and she invites the reader in with some questions at the end of each chapter. She doesn't want just people who have cancer, for example, to read this book. She claims, and I agree, that this book is for anyone who has experienced, is experiencing, or will experience hard. Well, that's everyone. We cannot escape the hard of life, the sharp and rough edges of people and circumstances. We cannot escape it but we can have peace, hard peace, in the midst of it. Unless you have walked through hard with peace you can't speak with any authority on it. You have to experience it to share it honestly and without cliches. Kara has the authority to show us and tell us that it is possible to have hard peace when life isn't so gentle. She has been well equipped to speak on this topic. Kara's book, The Hardest Peace, is a gift for the reader. The message Kara has lived to share is for anyone who has faced hard and that is each of us. Pick up a copy for yourself and a friend today. You will be challenged and comforted by Kara's story.

It has been too long since I have read a book that made my heart hurt, restless, eager and expectant all at the same time. I am entering a new "hard", and I ever need reminding that God is fully in it, that every nook and cranny of my life is his and under his endless grace. I hold my breath because I want to live aware of that grace each moment but know that I will fail in that, and still in that failing, his grace will be even stronger. As a high-achieving Type A, I struggle with being loving and patient and kind, especially under stress. Through this book I am reminded that that is the why of life: to love so that God is known by others. I have a long way to go, but thankfully God's grace stretches longer than my road.

The Hardest Peace is a must read for everyone. This is not another cancer story. This is God's story of grace and love written throughout the life of Kara Tippetts. It is a story that will not only touch your heart, but cause you to begin to look at your own life's story through the lens of God's unfailing love. Through Kara's beautiful telling of God's faithful love in the hard story for her life, she shows us the importance of embracing God's calling in our life; letting go of the idol image we have created of what our life should look like and trust Him. She demonstrates the importance of showing BIG love in small, every day moments like folding laundry for her kids, snuggling tight to read a bedtime story or time spent across from her spouse with a good cup of coffee. It all matters. Every. Single. Moment. Kara shares her hurts, fears and impossibly difficult moments with such love and grace that it moves us to begin to be honest about our own hard that we often want to keep hidden. With encouragements like, "Hard is not the absence of God's goodness." Kara helps us to know God's goodness is near—even in hard places.

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