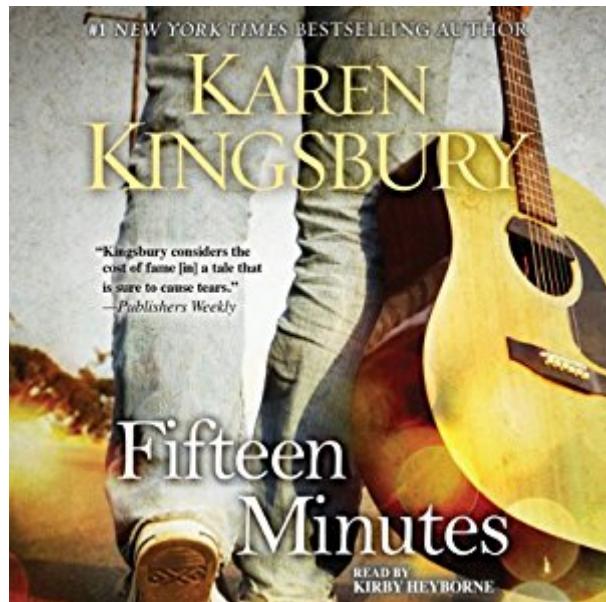


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# Fifteen Minutes: A Novel



## **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**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Zack Dylan can sing and sing well. When he seizes an opportunity to audition for the hit show, Fifteen Minutes, he takes it. He is determined that he can win and save his family's horse farm. Despite misgivings from those who love him - his family and girlfriend - they do offer him their support. Zack is determined to live out his Christian faith in front of the cameras. But when the producers keep trying to push him towards another contestant and to silence his outspokenness of

his faith, will he let it happen? Will a taste of fame cause him to lose sight of who he is? What can I say about this book? True to classic Karen Kingsbury style, she has written a story that will engross her readers. But like her last several books, this one also deals with fame and fortune. I miss the days when she would write stories that had me in tears. Stories that changed lives. I'm not saying that for some people that this book may be life-changing. I'm saying that for me, the story seemed the same as several of her other books. Just change the names and the settings. Things I liked about this book -1. The realness of Chandra, one of the judges. 2. Seeing one of the other judges, Kelly, realize the direction her life was taking. 3. Reese - Zack's girlfriend. Things I didn't like about this book -1. That Zack found the little things ok to compromise on. For me it made him seem like he was conforming. 2. The entire storyline of seeking fame. Yeah that didn't sit well with me. It seems that she's been so focused in her last several books in talking about the Hollywood lifestyle that I feel she's lost a connection with her readers. 3. I'm not a fan of the singing shows, so I don't know if this really happens or not.

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.

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