



Hidden Blessings

Kim Cash Tate

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Diagnosis: breast cancer.

Prognosis: terminal.

Life: only beginning.

Her diamond caught the sun's rays and refracted glittered light about the room. She'd asked herself again and again: How could she be so blessed? Partner at a prestigious law firm, engaged to the man of her dreams . . . there was no doubt. God had smiled on Kendra Woods.

But the moment Kendra is diagnosed with terminal breast cancer, her world collapses. Within days, Derek backs out of the wedding and the firm suggests a leave of absence during her treatment. Of all the roles Kendra has played over the years—daughter, sister, friend, student, attorney, bride-to-be—cancer patient seems the most unwelcome in the world.

When her path crosses with youth pastor Lance Alexander, Kendra sees only the troublemaker she knew in high school. But Lance could prove an unexpected spark. In the darkness that covers her, will Kendra be able to embrace a glimmer of hope?

"With trademark understated elegance, . . . this emotionally charged addition to Tate's body of work is neither sappy nor trite." —*Publishers Weekly*

Hidden Blessings Details

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From Reader Review Hidden Blessings for online ebook

Averil Pesce says

Wow!! This was a very powerful book! I am blown away...God is so good! Kim Cash Tate has a way with words and a passion for Christ that shines thru her book!! You get to see the struggle but also get to see God through it all! It shows that even Christians have struggles and things don't always go the way we want but God will always be there!

His Wife7474 says

Hidden Blessings is a well-written book. the story flows, the characters seem to take on a life of their own, and fans of KCT will be pleasantly surprised with a few cameos from her books, Faithful and Cherished. The depth she puts into these characters is simply amazing. Be warned... 70% of this book is a tear-jerker as not everyone gets a storybook ending. Still, there are plenty of scriptures in here that feed the soul. I caught myself writing several down on sticky notes. Great read. Belongs in every Christian library of for nothing more than to loan it to a friend.

Daphne James says

Very enlightening. I was quite pleased that she dealt with the physical and emotional issues around dealing with a terminal illness. Ms. Tate was able to show feelings from the side of the person who is ill as well as from friends and Family members. This book was truly a blessing. It has given me insight as my family and I are dealing with similar issues. The scriptural references really have helped me a lot personally. Very good book that presents a truly "happily ever after."

Shari Larsen says

Kendra Woods feels blessed; at 32, she is partner in a prestigious law firm, and just weeks away from marrying Derek, the man of her dreams, the best years of her life are just beginning. Then she is diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer, which is terminal, and her world comes crashing down; she has to leave the firm for treatment, and Derek backs out of the wedding.

She decides to go back home to St. Louis, Missouri, where her path crosses with youth pastor Lance Alexander. Kendra only knew him as a troublemaker in high school, but as she gets to know Lance, she starts feeling a spark of hope.

I was drawn to this story because I also have breast cancer; a different type than Kendra, but mine is also terminal, stage IV. The author really did an excellent job of painting a picture of what it is like to go through treatment for breast cancer, and Kendra went through the same treatments I did; chemo, surgery, and

radiation. She really captured what it is like not only physically, but emotionally and mentally too. Even though Kendra was a fictional character, her story was so real to me.

I loved the story of her relationship with Lance also; it was sweet, but not melodramatic or sappy. Whether or not you have had cancer, or know someone who does, this book has lessons in it for all of us, without being preachy.

Cassandra says

You will laugh, cry, be anxious when you read this book. Lovely read! Kim wrote a gem!

Lynne Evans says

I'll start at the end of the book. I cried through the last three chapters. This is a love story of a man and a woman and their love of God. It's the story of a woman diagnosed with a terminal disease and how she learned to love what she's been given. Having had a friend lose her battle with breast cancer, I was familiar with the good & bad days of chemo and getting out of bed. Still the character in the book was like my friend and knew God was with her.

Nicole says

Warning: Do not read this book in a public setting without tissues nearby.

Kim Cash Tate presents real life situations that will probably hit close to home for many readers. Families everyday are faced with finding out a loved one has breast cancer. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (in 2011) 220,097 women and 2,078 men in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer. For some readers they may be facing the battle themselves.

In *Hidden Blessings*, the main character, Kendra Woods, has the picture perfect life. She is a partner at a top law firm and about to plan her dream wedding. While relaxing in her bathtub she notices a weird color on her breast. Later, Kendra receives a diagnosis that instantly changes the course of her life.

The book demonstrates examples of strength, hope, faith and love that will continually force you to stop reading and reflect on your own life. Kim Cash Tate skillfully infuses scripture into the story line that will have the spirit of God literally jump off the page and reach you wherever you are in your journey of life. The author also demonstrates her understanding of inflammatory breast cancer in her writing.

The book feels like a movie, you laugh, you cry and you fall in love with the characters. *Hidden Blessings* reminds us to truly cherish and view every day as a gift. To live like tomorrow isn't guaranteed. It's a reminder to think about what is really important to you.

You will be reminded that the obstacles that turn your life in a completely different direction can become a hidden blessing.

Hope says

Faith and love...even in adversity

Kendra Woods is living a great life – attorney at a prestigious Washington, D.C. firm, impending nuptials to the man of her dreams, the start of a lifetime of happiness in her immediate future. She's living on top of the world. And then her world and life as she knows it comes crashing down as Kendra receives news that changes everything - a terminal diagnosis followed by abandonment by the one she thought she would always be able to count on.

Lance Alexander is also living a great life, a purposeful life. After growing up in less than desirable circumstances, and making a few bad choices along the way, Lance is now a charismatic, down-to-earth youth pastor, inspiring others to choose an abundant life. Others in Lance's life believe that he is ready to take the next step in his pastoral journey, but Lance is awaiting confirmation from above...and reassurance that his past is safely behind him.

It is at this time that Lance and Kendra's paths cross. As Kendra returns home to begin an aggressive treatment plan, Lance just happens to be there, first as a tenant in her father's home, and later as a true friend who provides the help and support she so desperately needs. The transformation of Lance and Kendra's friendship, despite Kendra's diagnosis and uncertain future, as well as the changes within the supporting cast of characters that surround them, will endear readers to this story, while also serving to inspire and encourage.

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. I have been a fan of Kim Cash Tate's work since *Heavenly Places*. The underlying storyline in *Hidden Blessings* is shocking and may cause readers to initially feel a sense of hopelessness and despair. Yet, readers will soon be reminded that no matter how dire the circumstances may appear on the surface, every cloud has a silver lining and with every season of despair and adversity, there is also a hidden blessing. Excellent and inspiring read!

Shantadee Gadson says

I absolutely loved this book. I'm labeling it as my 2015 favorite book of the year! Thank you Kim Cash Tate, you gave me hope, made me laugh and brought me to tears. Any book that can bring emotions out of you is a book well worth reading.

Natalie Mangrum says

I found that I could relate well with the characters from a cultural standpoint, which is one of the reasons I liked this book so much. But more than that, it was refreshing to read Christian fiction because it has a completely different feel from the "self help" of non fiction. I find fiction to be more enjoyable when I'm trying to relax or wind down before bed. The beauty of Kim's writing is that suffering is coupled with the

truths of God's love & redemption.

Nia Forrester says

Christian fiction is generally not among the genres I routinely read. And my prejudices are the ones that many people probably can relate to:

I don't want to be preached at.

I am spiritual but not religious.

And, honestly, I like a little realistic premarital sex in my fiction.

You know, the usual objections. But this time, the blurb reached out and grabbed me. It begins:

Diagnosis: breast cancer.

Prognosis: terminal.

Life: only beginning.

Now, as an author myself, I wanted to see how this writer would pull this off (that's often my motivation for choosing books--seeing whether an author who has set out a tall order can actually deliver on it). After all, a story about a woman with a terminal illness should be, by its very nature depressing. And this book is supposed to be inspirational. So, I went in completely skeptical. And let me say up front, that Kim Cash Tate delivered. Not only did she deliver, she helped me reconsider my prejudice against Christian fiction entirely.

In 'Hidden Blessings', we meet Kendra Woods, a woman who by almost any measure has a full and successful life. She is a well-respected attorney and is engaged to Derek, also an attorney. They are mere weeks away from the wedding when she notices an anomaly on her breast. Having lost a mother to cancer, Kendra immediately gets it checked out, and receives the most devastating diagnosis possible.

Chemotherapy, her doctor tells her, is not a cure in her case, just a means to prolong her life expectancy, which in the most optimistic of scenarios, will be only three years. Before starting chemo, however, Kendra wants to have her dream wedding and honeymoon, fearing that the chemo will make her too ill.

And then Derek drops a bomb. A terminally-ill wife is not in his life plan.

Smarting from this blow, Kendra returns to her hometown to lick her wounds, and to start treatment with the doctor who helped her mother. It is once she goes home that we see beneath the facade of Kendra's well-ordered life. Her family is in disarray--her father in exile after a scandal, her younger brother careening out of control in his life, her family home a mess ...

But there is Divine intervention on the way, in the person of Lance Alexander, a youth pastor who Kendra knew in high school. Lance, after a rough spell, has turned his life around. And his journey is about to intersect with Kendra's in unexpected ways.

'Hidden Blessings' surprised me. I expected a love story, and got that, but not quite the kind of love story I'm

accustomed to. This was a story of selfless love, unconditional and uncommon love, guided not only by personal desires but by faith and a strong belief in the ultimate wisdom of a compassionate God. If you are an atheist (I am not) or a cynic (I am) this is a challenging concept, especially since we may not see very much of this kind of love. But Kim Cash Tate made the possibility of such a love believable, reasonable, poignant and thought-provoking in this book.

Lance wasn't perfect. He had self-doubt, he had pride, he had desires ... all the things that a living, breathing man falling in love with a woman might have. But he also had faith, and Kim Cash Tate did a masterful job of showing how his faith guided the path he chose with Kendra and later with her family. When Kendra is despondent and bemoans the fact that she will die in a few years, Lance reminds her that she can look at that time differently. Since none of us know the time of our passing, she can use her time to 'live' rather than to die.

Even as Kendra accepts that, she is reluctant to embrace the love Lance offers, because after all, she can offer so little back. This conflict is one that rises above the more conventional romance-novel conflicts. Selflessness is what might keep the two apart rather than the standard romance challenges caused by selfishness, jealousy or pride.

I grew to care about Lance (and wish I knew him!) and Kendra; and more than that, I cared about all of the secondary characters as well. Each and every one of them had struggles that needed to be overcome, and the author was able to use them as lessons about the power of faith without the preachy tone that would have turned me immediately off. Only on one issue was I a little dissatisfied, but I recognize this as my issue. The author's treatment of same-sex attraction was consistent with Christian doctrine so it was not unexpected, but like Christian doctrine, it offers little by way of answers on homosexuality, but a lot of platitudes.

While Lance talked about his faith and about God, the more compelling parts of the book showed him living his faith, struggling with his faith and even once questioning it. This made him real to me. I also loved, loved, loved Kendra's rediscovery of her faith even in the face of the worst adversity; and her ability to give thanks in the face of loss was beyond moving. I actually found myself wishing I had her strength, but beyond that, every single one of her emotions, I empathized with. Without being overly sentimental or sappy, Kim Cash Tate made me want for Kendra all the things she wanted for herself.

Finally, I will say that I had a pretty strong notion of how 'Hidden Blessings' might end. Wrong again. But rest assured, it ended as it should.

For all of you who are reluctant to wade into the waters of Christian fiction, I strongly encourage you to do it with this book.

Stacy says

I really enjoyed this one for the most part. I could relate to the theme because I deal with a chronic illness. However, I felt too many unnecessary angles were taken with the story and it took away from the main story line. I still love Ms. Tate storytelling and the characters she developed.

Andree Miller says

Initially, I was not too keen on this book - Hidden Blessings. The story line was somewhat typical and rather pedestrian. But somewhere in the middle, we really begin to see the main character's heart and her struggles begin to resonate. I realized this was not going to be a fairy tale romance with a Christian twist, but a very realistic portrayal of someone's life.

The overarching theme of this book is to pursue God. **Pursue God at any cost** because it is so worth it. Your life is richer and fuller when in pursuit of God actively and rather mundane when not. Like Kendra you may become caught up in your accomplishments, your looks, your health and your fiancee until it is all taken away from you. Then what? This book eloquently answers this question with a mix of circumstances: prison, drug use, an affair, homosexuality, family estrangement and of course cancer.

In her pursuit of God, Kendra weathers it all and is able to overcome. You will be surprised by the turn of events.

Toni Shiloh says

Oh my goodness. What a beautiful love story. Not just the romantic love, but that of God's great love for His children. Simply beautiful.

Jessica Till says

Stilted writing, caricatured main characters, an excess of unnecessary melodrama (cancer is dramatic enough without exaggerating the experience), and propagation of the harmful idea that being gay means one has to be alone for life lest one proceed directly to hell. Disappointing how a book that emphasizes radical forgiveness and acceptance so heavily can be so close-minded in other areas.

I had high hopes for this book, given the reviews I've read of this author. I'm really disappointed, and not sure I actually want to try any other books of hers to see if they're any better.
