

Endorsements for When Tragedy Strikes

Seldom have I read a book written with such honesty, frankness and passion regarding the struggles one encounters when a loved one has died. Although written after the death of her daughter Laura's journey of moving through loss to again find hope has pearls of wisdom for recovering from any loss. - *Dr. Gloria Horsley, President and Founder of www.opentohope.com and mother of Scott, age 17*

The most harrowing experience a mother endures is to bury a child and not lose her mind or abandon her faith. Walk with Laura and be encouraged as she shares the story of losing her precious Becca and discovering a resolve that comes only after trusting God in the deep, dark throes of grief. —*Shelley Ramsey, Grief: A Mama's Unwanted Journey and mother of Joseph, age 17*

As a mother of a beautiful baby boy, who lives in Heaven, I found When Tragedy Strikes to be comforting and encouraging. As I read through the chapters, many aspects of the book sounded familiar to my own grief; the many questions and thoughts I have experienced. I have had many doubts and questions to why God would let my family go through such pain and loss, but reading through this book, helped me realize that it's ok not to know all the answers, and to have hope that the future can be bright again, to be open to God's plan for me and my family and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The book also reminded me I need to take care of myself physically and mentally to be able to carry myself through my journey. – *Leanne Steinberger: mother of Daniel, 9 precious days*

I am not a very big reader, but my wife asked me to read the chapter written by Dave. It was definitely something I could relate to from another father and believer's point of view. I found it encouraging and uplifting, and was thankful my wife shared it with me. – *Michael Steinberger: father of Daniel, 9 days old*

As a mom who lost her son two years ago, I thought I was never going to get through it. When *Tragedy Strikes* is a very powerful book and I am so glad I read it. I was surprised at how often Laura put into words things I have experienced and thoughts I have had. It has helped me to realize it is ok to still have good days and bad days. I call *When Tragedy Strikes* the healing book. - *Donna Ames: mother of Josh, age 26*

Author Laura Diehl presents in her writing an honest account of a long slow ordeal: because this life trial transcends pain and loss and becomes an inspiration. When *Tragedy Strikes: Rebuilding Your Life After the Death of Your Child* offers a vision of a life well-led and of love in the thick of crisis and loss. Beyond inspiring. When *Tragedy Strikes: Rebuilding Your Life After the Death of Your Child* is an invaluable, compassionate, and spiritual harvest of redemptive insights that will both inspire and challenge the reader. I will recommend and share with many of my personal and professional friends - *J.P. Olson: Author of "Voices Out of The Box" and Founder of Journey Into The Word Ministries.*

The way Laura has chosen to allow her words to dance out the beauty of joy and sorrow that grief inevitably is, just takes my breath away. She has allowed her heart to find the friend grief can become, if we embrace the barren sorrow of pain and allow ourselves to be emptied, so that we can once again be filled. She has reached out a hand in the book *When Tragedy Strikes*, and allowed her readers to experience her grief like a child would experience their first trip to the sea, watching its waves roll back and crest the edge of the sand; witnessing the power of its capacity to drown us, but reveling in the sweet sensation of floating above the waves in our daddies arms. That is the picture Laura has painted for me. She has given me eyes to see beyond the drowning pain of losing a child, and allowed me to witness the resurrection power of the human spirit within the arms of Jesus Christ. It is an honor to know her story and to have seen her craft it so deeply, so sweetly, so tragically gorgeous, as she chose to allow the years soaked in tears to become a garden of gratefulness... I raise my glass to you mama. I am grateful for you. *Hannah Linton: singer, writer, grief counselor, and mother of 3 on earth and 7 in heaven (5 miscarriages, 1 stillborn, and 1 ninety minutes old)*

Wow! Talk about taking off the masks! It's absolutely amazing how revealing and authentic *When Tragedy Strikes* is! Laura Diehl is very real and open about the depth of darkness she was in when her daughter died. I truly admire her willingness to expose the ugly internal turmoil which those of us who have not lost a child to death know nothing about. And yet we are not left in that place of darkness with her, but we rise up with hope and life in the arms of a faithful God. I have been honored to be a part of Laura's journey, and believe many will be touched by God's goodness they will read about in these pages, receiving hope and life for whatever situation they find themselves in. - *Dr. John Veal, senior pastor of Enduring Faith Christian Center and CEO of John Veal Ministries.*

From my perspective as a pastor and walking through every season of life with thousands of people, the death of a child has to be the most excruciating loss a person can go through. The pain seems unstoppable and all consuming. And then you add on top of that the stupid and flippant responses people make to you as a grieving parent, and it further entrenches you in a dark forest without a compass and without a light. In the book, "When Tragedy Strikes," Laura is able to skillfully give voice to this grief in a loving and poignant way that only a person who has gone through the death of child can fully understand. But in addition, she is able to create a tangible blueprint for rebuilding your life that will give you a compass and a light to guide you through the darkness of your grief. If you are walking through the death of a child, or someone near you is walking through this, "When Tragedy Strikes" is a must read. - *Russ Walker, Senior Pastor of CrossPointe Community Church*

If you are a parent who has experienced the death of a child, you know the searing devastation and pain of this unspeakable loss. In this book, Laura proposes that *two* deaths occurred that day: your child died, and so did *you*. The "you" that existed before that tragic day died with your child, and the "you" who is left behind must find a new way to live. In *When Tragedy Strikes*, Laura offers hope and encouragement, and shows a path that leads out of the darkness, and into new life. You *can* live again. Laura can show you how. - *Ray Edwards Founder, Ray Edwards International*

Laura Diehl has a way of sharing her experience and healing after her daughter's death that is so relatable. Your heart and soul can't help but be touched by her honesty and openness about her hurt and depression. I believe this book will help so many people. *When Tragedy Strikes* touches all aspects of the grieving process and brings Scripture and life experience together. We are not going through this alone. Not only do we have our Father in heaven holding us up, but he has given people like Laura the gift and inspiration to share with us the hope and healing we need. – *Kathy Pelton mother of Joshua, age 23*

