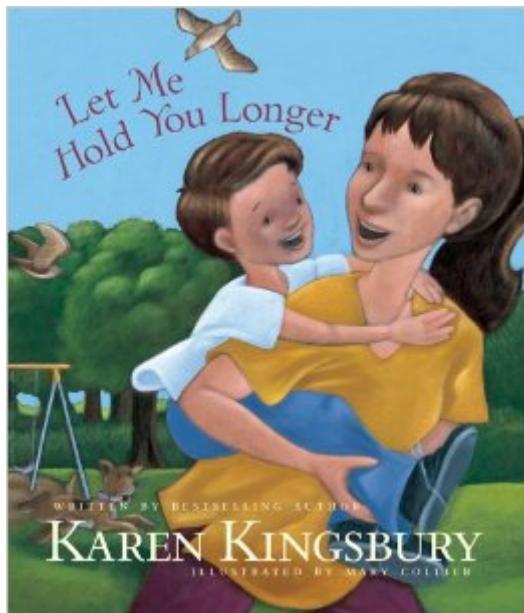


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# Let Me Hold You Longer



## Synopsis

With lighthearted illustrations and a sweet, reflective tone, best-selling author Karen Kingsbury encourages parents to savor not only their children's firsts, like first steps and first words, but the lasts as well. With the tenderness of a mother speaking directly to her child, Karen reminds us not to miss last days of kindergarten and last at-bats in Little League amid the whirlwind of life. Adapted from a poem in *Rejoice*, this book allows mothers and grandmothers everywhere to identify with the tenderhearted reflections on these pages. Now the same sweet content is available in this smaller edition at a special value price.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (294 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #15,590 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian #118 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity #127 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens

Age Range: 5 - 11 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 6

## Customer Reviews

I received this wonderful book as a Christmas gift. It is written truly from the HEART! And whenever I read it, it felt like I had written it straight from MINE. I could not keep from tearing up. It sends such a wonderful reminder message to us that our children do not stay little forever. Even though we all know that, we tend to get busy with day-to-day life and let the little things slip away with time. One important thing this book points out is that we tend to have pictures and records of important FIRSTS of our children, but we don't have those for the LASTS, because we never know when the last time they do something is going to come, and we're not looking for the lasts, as we look for the firsts. I could go on and on about this beautifully written and illustrated book, but you need to read it for yourself. I'm sure your heart will be touched as mine, and you will feel like Karen Kingsbury

looked deep into YOUR heart and wrote down everything she saw.

I don't know that I can add much to what other reviewers of this book have stated so eloquently, but I loved the book so much that I wanted to add my two cents. I bought the book two days ago at a book fair, and as I read it out loud (along with its very moving introduction) to my husband on our drive home from work that day, I was so choked up I couldn't even get the words out. Not only is the book perfectly rhymed (bad rhyming is such a pet peeve of mine!), but it touched me more deeply than any other book I have ever read as a parent. Most importantly, it makes me appreciate even more all of the wonderful things my two-year-old son and one-year-old daughter do and say every day. It also gave me a "preview" of so many precious moments still to come. I am ordering multiple copies to give as gifts, because this very special book must be shared! Thank you, Karen. I look forward to getting my hands on your other books as soon as possible.

My son's second grade teacher sent the book home for me to read to him for a read aloud. As I began to read I could feel the tears welling up. This story is beautifully told in rhyme which my son loved. It really makes you think about the importance of appreciating life now. My son has been a hand full to raise and then there are the moments that only a parent can appreciate- the whisper of "I love you" when you kiss him good night or the sad sigh and whispered prayer when he sees a dead animal on the side of the road. This book makes you take a look at the child God has blessed you with and to appreciate the little moments that will soon be gone as he matures into adulthood. The pictures are delightful as well. I especially loved the one of the young boy holding a flower - root and all- and handing it to his mother. An all too familiar scene that many can appreciate.

Every parent will identify with the feelings in this book. Kingsbury's rhyming text is a little sappy, but very appropriate for the sentiment. I gave the book four stars only because the illustrations are so resolutely boy. e.g., when the text references "The last time that you wear a jersey for your high school team," the illustration shows football players. I know that Kingsbury had boys in mind when she wrote the book, but her text could fit girls too, and it would be nice to see more illustrations appropriate to both genders. The book mentions prayer in a couple of places, but not to the extent that nonreligious parents would be put off. The included cd is a nice touch. It contains only a single track that begins with the introduction and ends with the story. If it were two tracks, I could imagine that a child would listen to the audio as part of a playlist at bedtime, perhaps? But since the

introduction and story are in the same track, it seems that the intended audience is the parent.

This book was given to me by my mother for Mother's Day. This book made me cry unabashedly. It made me think of my little boy's firsts (he is 4 years old). And it also made me cry for the firsts of my little girl (10 months old). This book will make you stop and appreciate each moment that you have with your children. A wonderful book for any mother!!

Got this book for a baby shower gift and already have it for my kid. We love it. It's a sentimental story about how you recognize the 'last' of each stage your child goes through. Would you recognize the last time your child crawled, last time they needed your help throughout each phase, next thing you know they are off to college. So pay attention and enjoy each moment, so you remember the first's and the last's. It's a real sweet book, that will have more meaning for the Mom at the moment than reading it to your child.

Let me just say that you will ugly cry over this--I started crying during the introduction! It looks like a children's book, but no way will you ever ever ever be able to read this to your kids without sobbing uncontrollably and scaring the bejesus out of them. LOL That being said, I LOVE this book, just as any parent who can get super-emotional about how quickly these babes are growing up can love a book. As soon as I read it, I ordered six more for my close mama friends and my mother-in-law for Mother's Day. All of them sobbed. My husband even encouraged his male employees to give it to their moms for Mother's Day too! It is altogether lovely and terrible, since it underlines and highlights how much of a blur childhood is for us parents...what a wonderfully hard and fast road it is.

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