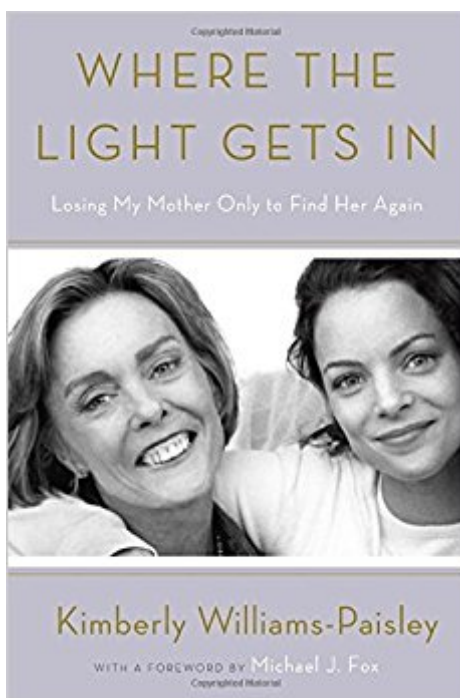


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Where The Light Gets In: Losing My Mother Only To Find Her Again



Synopsis

“The relationship between a mother and daughter is one of the most complicated and meaningful there is. Kimberly Williams-Paisley writes about her own with grace, truth, and beauty as she shares her journey back to her mother in the wake of a devastating illness.”

Brooke Shields Many know Kimberly Williams-Paisley as the bride in the popular Steve Martin remakes of the *Father of the Bride* movies, the calculating Peggy Kenter on *Nashville*, or the wife of country music artist, Brad Paisley. But behind the scenes, Kim was dealing with a tragic secret: her mother, Linda, was suffering from a rare form of dementia that slowly crippled her ability to talk, write and eventually recognize people in her own family. *Where the Light Gets In* tells the full story of Linda’s illness—called primary progressive aphasia—from her early-onset diagnosis at the age of 62 through the present day. Kim draws a candid picture of the ways her family reacted for better and worse, and how she, her father and two siblings educated themselves, tried to let go of shame and secrecy, made mistakes, and found unexpected humor and grace in the midst of suffering. Ultimately the bonds of family were strengthened, and Kim learned ways to love and accept the woman her mother became. With a moving foreword by actor and advocate Michael J. Fox, *Where the Light Gets In* is a heartwarming tribute to the often fragile yet unbreakable relationships we have with our mothers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Heartbreaking but never sentimental, Williams-Paisley’s book offers an intimate

look at a family's struggle with a life-altering disease. It is also a daughter's tribute to the mother whose disease offered her a new opportunity to love unconditionally and practice being comfortable with [the] uncomfortable. A simply told, moving memoir.

•Kirkus Reviews "Kimberly Williams-Paisley has written a book that is both heartbreaking and essential. I loved it for all the love it contained but also for the wealth of practical information. The Williams family went down a hard road with dementia, and we can all benefit from their experience.

•Ann Patchett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bel Canto* and *State of Wonder* "The relationship between a mother and daughter is one of the most complicated and meaningful there is. Kimberly Williams-Paisley writes about her own with grace, truth, and beauty as she shares her journey back to her mother in the wake of a devastating illness.

•Brooke Shields, *New York Times* bestselling author of *There Was a Little Girl* "Kim's story really resonated with me, as it will with countless others. Her beautiful, heartfelt book is an absolute must-read for mothers, daughters, and anyone dealing with a loved one living with dementia. It will also help to bring comfort to families facing any type of life-altering situation.

•Robin Roberts, *Good Morning America* "Where the Light Gets In is simply wonderful . . . and sad . . . and brave. This book will bring comfort to families who are experiencing the complex and confusing journey of progressive dementia while still celebrating moments of true joy. Williams-Paisley's narrative and the resource section will help people know they are not alone.

•Angela Timashenka Geiger, Chief Strategy Officer, Alzheimer's Association "Generous, human, and healing; that's what this book is. Kimberly Williams-Paisley has invited us into her life and her family so that we may know ourselves better. By sharing her story with such vulnerability and honesty, she makes it accessible to everyone, with or without a personal connection to dementia. Through it, I had the experience of seeing my own family differently, understanding my desire to love more, and connecting deeply to my own stories of illness, grief, compassion, empathy, and redemption.

•Connie Britton, Actress "Where the Light Gets In left an indelible mark on my heart. The story of love and acceptance and the unbreakable bond of family, this book will be a comfort to so many families who are going through what Kim's went through and will be a much-needed source of strength for all those who read it.

•Sheryl Crow, Musician "Informative, relatable, and heartbreaking, *Where the Light Gets In* is a must-read for those who have a loved one struggling with dementia.

•Seth Meyers, Host of *Late Night with Seth*

Meyers' "Kimberly Williams-Paisley's experience with her mother's dementia is very moving, and you'll be touched by so much in this book. This topic needs national attention, and *Where the Light Gets In* helps bring focus to that need." —William Shatner, Actor
"In *Where the Light Gets In*, Kimberly Williams-Paisley shares the brutal emotional toll that dementia takes on a family, bravely revealing the denial, the missteps, the losses, the grief. Thankfully, she also shares the lessons—how to get comfortable being uncomfortable, how to connect with her mother where she is, how to love unconditionally. Intimate, honest, and beautifully written, this book will be a tremendous resource for anyone affected by dementia." —Lisa Genova, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Still Alice*
"Kimberly Williams-Paisley's honest and heart-wrenching memoir draws a stark picture of the devastation of dementia on a family and captures the sense of injustice when the parent/child role is reversed far too young. Kimberly shares her story to honor her mother, but she galvanizes us to find a cure for a disease that slowly erases the ones we love most." —Lee Woodruff, journalist and *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of *An Instant*

Kimberly Williams-Paisley is an actress, writer and advocate for dementia research and caregivers. She and her husband live in Tennessee with their two sons and two dogs. This is her first book.

I am not a person that rates books but after reading this book, felt I should let others know how excellent this book is. Kimberly Williams-Paisley wrote a touching and informative book on her family's journey with her mother's dementia. There were so many moments in the book that I could relate to as I experience my own journey with my mom. I especially appreciated the reminder to love and experience my mom where she is now, not what she used to be. If you have a family member with dementia, I encourage you to read this book.

I set out to read this because I am a Fan of all that is Paisley. Very quickly the words written began to have such a similarity to the loss of my own Mother. We lost her after a 2 year battle of stomach cancer almost 2 years ago. Gone was the fangirl. It was replaced with the love of a new found author. One who managed to write the words that I struggle to find or even allow myself own. She brought comfort to me and hopefully others, that have no choice but to walk this path. Bravo Kim! You made me laugh, cry and yes even manage to love your family even more.

Although I have a very busy schedule. I am having a hard time putting this book down. I was hooked from Chapter 1. It is very well written, informative and endearing. I also read Diary of a Player by Brad Paisley and thoroughly enjoyed that book too. I am almost finished with it and will be sad when it is finished. I feel that way about all the good, well written, interesting wonderful books that I read. Whether you have dementia in your family or not this book is a must read. Thank you
Kimmy

I loved this book for so many reasons: it's candid, loving and a real look at one family's journey with dementia. My Dad was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's and I was concerned about reading this. Would it scare me more than I already am? Would it be a dismal look at what lies ahead? The answer is yes. I am scared and realize the future isn't rosy. I mourn for what my Dad is going through and losing. This book however, gave me HOPE. Hope that we too will find 'light' wherever we can on this journey with my Dad. We will embrace whatever comes next and move forward as a family, looking for where the light shines in. Helpful resources at the end, as well.

If only I'd had this 12 years ago. I know my dad hid a lot of my mom's problems from me. He didn't know what was going on either. When we finally took her to the doctor for those "little tests ", the doctor came in with papers from the Internet. He NEVER said she had ALZ. I did. It still was very much a stigma in 2004. Don't wait or make a joke like we would when leaving my parents' house. It would be much better knowing you'd made a mistake than do nothing for as long as we did. It took a lot of courage, and putting yourself up for ridicule, Kim, by writing this. I was at the ALZ Forum last week when you spoke and received your award. You have written from the heart and said so much that so many of us wish we'd been able to say. Definitely read this book if you're going through this now or have "been there" like me. Also, become an advocate, like she said, for those who aren't able to talk for themselves. Tell your Senators and Congressmen how important research is and how the funding MUST be increased. Beg them to sponsor the HOPE Act, which provides information and education to medical personnel and caregivers. Give what you can to help with funding locally and volunteer for The Longest Day, Blondes vs Brunettes Football Games, and The Walk to End Alzheimer's. This is my passion because NO ONE should have to watch a family member go through this. It HAS to end and the only way it can is with YOUR help.

My mom also has ppa, so I was really curious to see how others dealt with their mother having this disease. I first read it at the library and as soon as I finished it I went and bought it. I cried

throughout the whole book, but mostly out of relief that someone else has the same emotions and problems that I had. Kimberly was so honest with the trials that she went through with her mother and father, and it was a relief knowing that my family wasn't the only one going through this. Many times while I was reading I just wanted to talk to Kimberly and compare stories. If you have a family member with dementia, I highly recommend that you read this. Some parts are hard to read, but it's not an easy disease. Thanks to Kimberly for sharing her experience and wisdoms to others.

This book was so honest about what a family faces with the diagnosis of a parent with dementia, in any form. I found myself recognizing so many of the things that the Williams family have experienced, and that brings comfort to me...I'm not alone. I wept at some of the familiar stories that I'd already lived with my mother's diagnosis and living as the secondary caregiver, following my Dad. Thank you, Kim, for sharing your story. It gives hope and peace to those who are in a very similar situation. God bless you and your family.

I highly recommend this to anyone dealing with Alzheimer's or dementia. I have read twice already and will probably pick it up again at some point. I have passed the book on to family members so they will understand what goes on as time progresses. It is a beautiful, honest story with a wealth of information, big and small; from practicing patience, understanding the illness and navigating the health system. Their story will aid many of us when having to make decisions for loved ones and for some of those tough issues that will need to be tackled in the future. Thank you Kimberly and Linda for sharing your story.

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