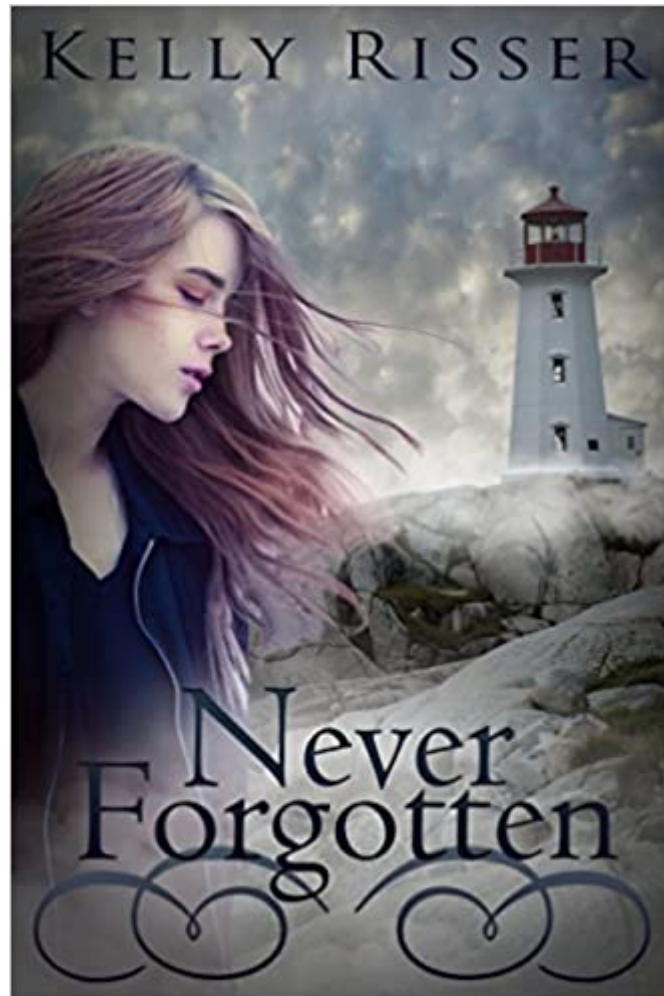




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Never Forgotten (Never Forgotten Series)



Synopsis

Meara Quinn is about to find out there are worse things than moving to a tiny oceanside town before her senior year. Like discovering there's a secret being kept from her and knowing it's a life-changer. After experiencing vivid visions of her absentee father, Meara decides she deserves answers. With the help of her new friend Evan, a guy she happens to be falling for, she embarks on a journey in the hopes of unlocking family history and finding her true self. But when she meets a handsome stranger at a local club who knows far more about her than he should, her world is again shaken. In him, Meara may have uncovered the key to the very secret that will reveal not only who she is... but what she is.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kelly Risser knew at a young age what she wanted to be when she grew up. Unfortunately, Fairytale Princess was not a lucrative career. Leaving the castle and wand behind, she entered the world of creative business writing where she worked in advertising, marketing, and training at various companies. She's often found lamenting, It's hard to write when there's so many good books to read! So, when she's not immersed in the middle of someone else's fantasy world, she's busy creating one of her own. This world is introduced in her first novel, Never Forgotten. Kelly lives in Wisconsin with her husband and two children. They share their home with Clyde the Whoodle and a school of fish.

As an author and mother of six kids, I'm extremely picky about what I spend my limited time reading. Most books I pick up, I put down after the first few pages. Unless it's a compelling beginning, I don't waste my time reading the rest. The day I picked this book up, I'd already started and gave up on five other books. But *Never Forgotten* I don't even remember making the decision to give it a full read. I was simply swept up in the story. Meara is such a relatable, sympathetic main character and my heart went out to her and her terminally ill mother. Evan was the perfect love interest - equal parts understanding, sympathetic, and hot. The setting was unforgettable, and described so well that I almost felt as if I were there. In fact, I swear I could literally feel the biting chill coming off the Atlantic Ocean. And I read this in August! This book is paranormal, but light on the fantasy and heavy on the character relationships. I thought it was a perfect balance for this story. I will definitely be picking up the next book in the series. I'm seriously anxious to find out where the author will take us next. Great job, Kelly! You've written a beautiful story!

I loved this more than I thought I would. It was beautifully emotional and well written. I loved the depth of the characters and I liked that the majority of the story was normal life with a light fantasy aspect if that makes sense. It was truly a lovely story. There were a few typos but they were minor and the storytelling outweighs the typos.

This was a good book but it has very little fantasy in it. It read like a detailed account of Meara's life after her mother is diagnosed with cancer. Everything keeps revolving around a major secret her mother is keeping from her and the truth about her father. This is not a high action fantasy adventure. Overall the book frustrated me when it came to the big reveal because the author drew it out for 25 chapters with barely any leads for the reader to go by. When the answers do come it doesn't feel complete. Her father was a very flat character to me. Despite him playing a major roll in the book I just didn't understand him or feel a connection to him as a character. He just sort of exists and is used to dangle possible answers in front of Meara without ever actually giving her any. In the end I am intrigued enough that I might read the 2nd book since now all is revealed and the tedious stuff has already been dealt with in this one. Still the journey to get there wasn't completely enjoyable.

I normally don't give five star rating but this book deserves it. The sentence phrasing at the beginning of the book was a little awkward at first. The author quickly smoothed her writing out though and I'm so glad she did. There is mystery, love and even a few tear jerking moments in this YA fantasy novel. For once it isn't about sparkly vampires or love sick werewolves. In fact, I will say the fantasy factor isn't one most people would think of. I applaud Ms Risser on being very original. Definitely a great read and I will be checking out the sequel.

I have never wanted to put down a book so bad. I have a heart but I couldn't feel for Mera and her Mom at all and I was bored out of my mind. I was being told everything. "He seemed angry about this." "I didn't think her response deserved an answer." "He kissed me." While Meara and her Mom go through a rough time, their concern and sorrow seemed extremely fake. As if Risser was treating them like puppets with strings and not like characters. Have you ever seen a puppet on strings give a believable impression of human emotions? I didn't think so. The major things I had issues with (2 omitted for spoiler reasons): This line: "Not bright blue like mine, they were a deep, endless blue like the depths of the ocean, fringed in thick, dark lashes." Really? Also, do all white male love interests have to have blue eyes? Insta-love. Grammatical and spelling mistakes that could have been easily fixed by just a friend proofreading. Meara thinking that since she and another guy broke away from their group of friends to get fries and lemonade it's suddenly a date. This line: "His skin glistened from the heat." Meara insists (once again telling us, but not showing us) that she misses her best friend Kim, but she rarely mentioned and Kim seems to be the last thing on Meara's mind. Also, when Kim is upset that Meara kept something major from her because Meara doesn't like phone calls and emails, Meara just excuses it by saying "this was better left for in person." Now, Meara says this when Kim comes over to visit, but Meara had no idea when Kim would ever be able to visit. Does that mean that she was never going to tell her? "Best friends" huh? David's "mysteriousness." It was unbelievable and a poor attempt to give the story a sense of mystery but there was none because it isn't done tastefully. The painful overuse of "grin", "grinned". There are a

ton of synonyms for grinning, there are also a ton of thesauruses online. The under-aged drinking. The sex. I'm not going to label this as a spoiler because I believe this is something that shouldn't be left out. Meara and her boyfriend have sex for the sole reason that Meara "wants to feel human again." And apparently, her Mom had the time and energy to take her to get birth control because "she knew we were serious," despite the circumstances. Really? It wasn't described, it wasn't inappropriately worded, but this isn't right. Absolutely horrendous timing and I'm disappointed that this was slipped in there. I didn't enjoy this book and it was a struggle to finish it.

Though this book was slow, the story kept me engaged, and Meara was a likeable, believable character. It had some paranormal elements I've never seen before, so I liked that. David seemed a bit too mysterious, though. The secret was held for an awful long time because he was waiting until her 18th birthday to tell her, yet the author never explained why he had to wait. Besides that, there were a lot of other unanswered questions. Overall, the book had an even balance of strengths and weaknesses, but it had enough strengths to keep me reading. I never felt like rushing ahead or putting the book down, and I really enjoyed the paranormal angle.

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