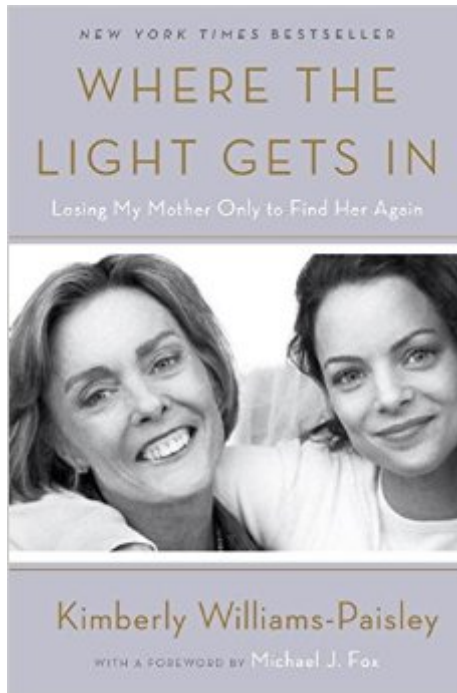


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# Where The Light Gets In: Losing My Mother Only To Find Her Again



## Synopsis

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

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.

Coming to terms with the reality of a close family member who has been stricken with a debilitating ailment can be a harrowing experience. This is a heart-rending true story of just such a situation told by a well-known actress (the author) who most will easily remember. The story, about her own mother, is candid, well written and extremely introspective. It offers an insiders view that can be easily understood and related to by others. In spite of the tragedy this kind of circumstance can impart, the author has had the remarkable ability to find some positive. As American philosopher Napoleon Hill once said: "Out of every adversity comes the seed of an equivalent or greater good." Well done Kimberly.

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.

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.

il have never read a more honest, heartbreaking but hopeful book on early onset dementia. As my husband was diagnosed @ 50 with a type of early onset dementia, I have read quite a a few. It's refreshing to see someone truly telling her story the good and the bad on this topic while still offering hope and resources to those that suffer with the same decisions/options that she and the rest of her family had to make! Bravo Kimberly, for making those in this e seemingly hopeless struggle not feel alone.

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

My mom had dementia and passed away one year ago. This is a hard disease to deal with. We did it with humor. This disease affects everyone. Miss Kim thank you for writing such wonderful words. It has helped me even more.

First heard about the work on Dr. Oz's Show. Went out and purchased "Where the Light Gets In" today. Admiration, respect, and love for those who remain with family despite what befalls our parents later in life. Will be sharing this work with my other friends who also have family suffering from this particular illness. Honor to the author for taking us along this private journey so perhaps, it might help others in a similar condition. At least for me, I was often reminded of the documentary based on Mr. Glen Cambell, "I'll Be Me," when reading "Where The Light Gets In." For me, both are examples of loved ones standing by their parents even when the going gets tough. Highly Recommended.

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