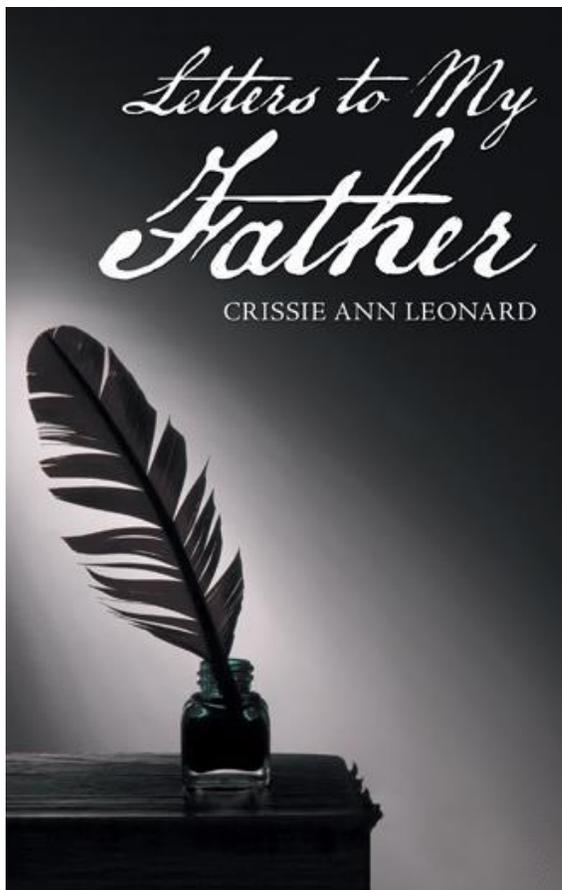


Crissie Ann Leonard
Author



Author: Crissie Ann Leonard
Category: Inspirational
Print ISBN: 978-1-9736-7509-9
Publisher: WestBow Press

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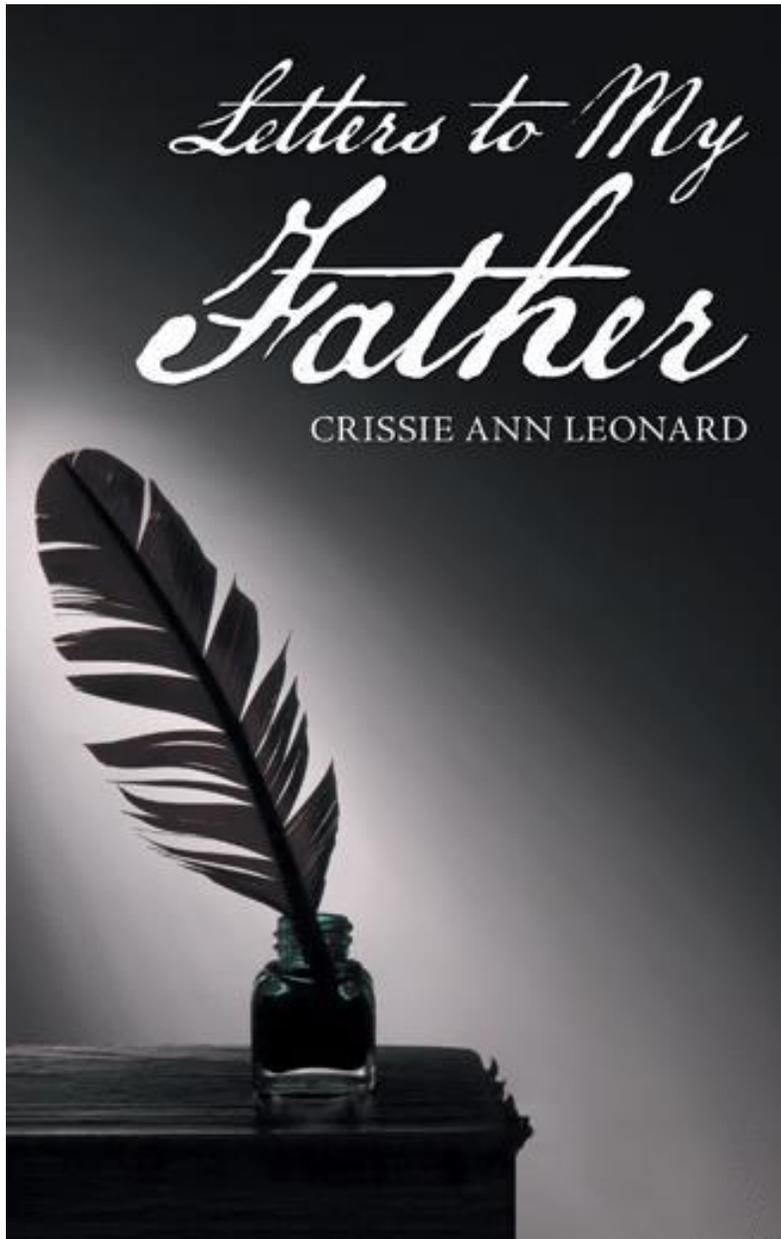
Crissie Ann Leonard is an accounting associate at a nonprofit firm who has loved literature since she could read. Building on that love and personal experiences, she has spent the last decade writing novels based on life, faith, growth, and healing.

She has been a lifelong writer and first began with short stories and poetry, only to be sidetracked by life—joy and sorrow, love and loss.

She lives in Ohio with her family. Her great loves are God, her cat Smokey, her family, and Chewbacca from Star Wars. When God's purpose rose to meet her pain, this book was born.



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Forty-three-year-old Wiletta Jayne is a God-loving woman in the midst of a spiritual drought. Her strong relationship with God has been disrupted by her chaotic lifestyle, and she feels lonely and lost. She decides to take some time off from work and visit the beach, where she hopes to reconnect with God's voice.

On the way, Wiletta feels a strong pull to visit a garage sale, where she finds a small stack of letters for sale. Knowing they are meant for her, she buys them and begins reading through them while on her vacation. In the letters, Wiletta discovers personal stories of despair, loneliness, joy, and more. God then instructs her to find the authors of the letters, so she reaches out to her best friend, Faith, who is a private investigator. Together, Wiletta and Faith set out to find these people, help them to know God's love, and heal their hearts so they can seek him again.

This novel tells the story of a woman led by God to a collection of letters written by strangers and the journey she takes with a friend to find and help the letters' authors.

Reader Reviews

“I loved this book so much and I couldn't put it down! Relatable, real and thought provoking! A must read!” - Carrie A.

“Getting this book for my church library.” - Anne P.

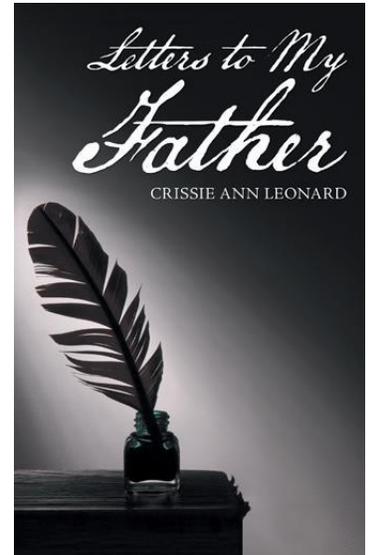
“This book has touched my soul in ways I never thought. I HIGHLY recommend!!” - Danielle L.

“This is a wonderful book about God reaching down and helping us out of the darkest times in our life. How it was all put together is so unique. It is definitely a must read.” - Joan M.

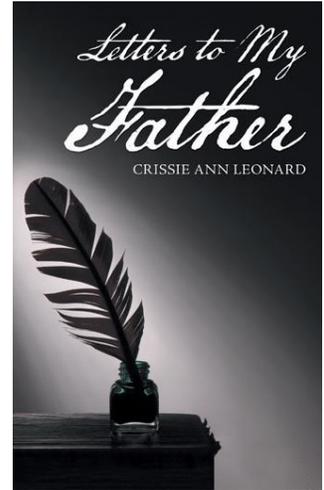
“This book touched my heart because I think we all have that journey...To think God does use all circumstances for his purpose is very inspiring.” - Amber H.

“I enjoyed this book so much! I could not put it down. I was introduced to characters with real life struggles, who questioned why, and have had their faith restored, through the realization of God's plan confirmed through Wiletta & Faith's visits. The author takes you on a journey, which in the end, reveals Wiletta's purpose as she takes steps of faith & obedience to follow what she feels God has called her to do. Even the names of the characters are Brilliant! Seemingly chosen to represent key elements set forth in Wiletta's mission & her own personal epiphany, which is a well-designed surprise for the reader. While the book is faith based and biblically accurate, it's subtle, rather than being overwhelmingly Religious. The letters & related stories provide hope & encouragement to those who have faced relatable life struggles & have questioned faith. Very inspiring & offers hope to even nonbelievers. Absolutely LOVED it!!” - Lisa B.

“Letters to My Father' is the beautiful story of a woman's faith in and love for her Creator. It is a story that shows how God has aligned and connected His people to further His kingdom and illustrates how the Holy Spirit has worked in the characters' lives through prayer and scripture. Beautifully written, I hope there are many more stories to come!” - Liz D.



Target Audience



WHO SHOULD READ?

- Pastoral Staff
- Women's Groups
- Recovery Groups/Centers
- Church Leaders
- Book Clubs
- Avid Readers
- Anyone Seeking God's Presence

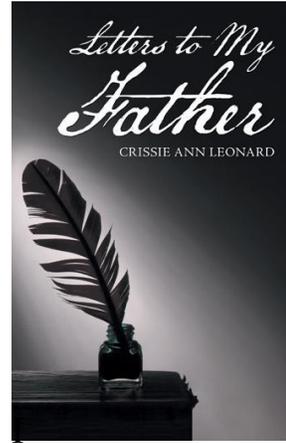
BOOK BENEFITS

- Exposure to God's Presence
- Scripture Reference
- Book Club discussion
- Thought Provoking



Book Excerpt

Chapter 1: The Letters



I awoke the next morning to a familiar voice saying, “Good morning, daughter. I see you found the letters.” Relief and affirmation filled me. My Father did meet me here at the beach house, and the letters were meant for me to find. I quickly dressed and had breakfast—eggs, bacon, and a steaming cup of tea. Then, picking up the basket, I went out onto the back porch.

The rocker I sat in faced the ocean. The sun was up, the sky empty of clouds, and for a few minutes, I simply rocked and enjoyed the sound of the waves and seagulls. Closing my eyes, my prayer was simple: “Thank you.” I turned my attention to the basket on the stool next to me. With butterflies in my stomach, I opened the top letter and found it was printed on lined grade-school paper.

Hi, I’m Joseph, and my mom and I need some help. My mom works all the time. I know she needs to work so we can live in our apartment and have food on our table, but I miss her. I’m only seven and am too young to work to help Mom pay the bills. Can you send some help to my mom so I can see her more?

Could you send me a friend, so I won’t be so lonely?

Joseph

I carefully refolded Joseph’s letter and placed it in its envelope. The next letter was written on cheap stationery. The script was a tiny scrawl and difficult to read.

Why have you done this to me again? This is the fourth time! I just want someone to love, to give the joy I never knew as a child! Do you know the pain and anger I feel? Eight months this time. I felt her move, heard her heartbeat, saw her little body. I did everything right: ate properly, rested, and took my vitamins. I felt such joy, reading to her and singing lullabies. Why did you take her? Why don’t I deserve a child? Is my past so unforgivable?

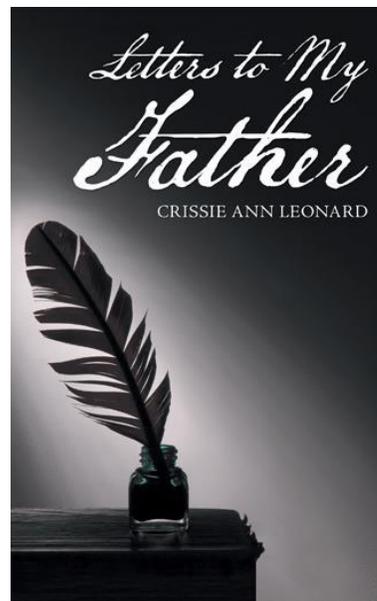
My husband tells me to lean into you and let your love help me. He prays nightly for peace, yet I know I will never find it. I don’t feel love for you, only contempt! Because of you, I only feel grief and emptiness, not joy and completeness. I don’t care if I ever hear from you again! A pink dress, bonnet, and shoes that she will never wear because of you!

Katerina

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS

I appreciate requests for photographs for press use. Email and let us know where you post your article so we can link to it.

-Thank you.





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