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# When I'm Gone: A Novel



## Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal bestseller  
Dear Luke, First let me say "I love you" I didn't want to leave you  
Luke Richardson has returned home after burying Natalie, his beloved wife of sixteen years, ready to face the hard job of raising their three children alone. But there's something he's not prepared for—a blue envelope with his name scrawled across the front in Natalie's handwriting, waiting for him on the floor of their suburban Michigan home. The letter inside, written on the first day of Natalie's cancer treatment a year ago, turns out to be the first of many. Luke is convinced they're genuine, but who is delivering them? As his obsession with the letters grows, Luke uncovers long-buried secrets that make him question everything he knew about his wife and their family. But the revelations also point the way toward a future where love goes on—in written words, in memories, and in the promises it's never too late to keep.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I feel pretty melodramatic writing you a letter to open on the day of my burial. According to Dr. Saunders I have a pretty decent chance of beating this thing, but you know me; I don't trust doctors. No harm in starting this journal, you know, just in case. I've always wanted to try my hand at writing;

maybe this will be my first step toward finally writing the novel dancing around my brain for the past ten years. They say write what you know, right? Apparently I know cancer and we are not friends.".....This bittersweet tale takes place in Farmington, Michigan. Luke and wife, Natalie, and their children; Nine year old May, Will, their 14 year old son, and three year old Clayton. The story begins on the day of Natalie's funeral . Later that day after returning home, he finds the first of what will be a series of letters from her. The thought of the letters coming gives him something to lean on, a little hope. Her love for her family carries on after her death. Her words give him strength he needs until he can pick up the pieces of the new life he never wanted. Natalie left him a true gift. She is teaching her husband to help her family go on without her. Where are the letters coming from though? They're arriving regularly in the mail. The pain of losing her is so hard on all of them. A heartbreaking story, but at the same time it's the story of a mother's love. Luke is living by the letters. Afraid not to and afraid to let go. He doesn't follow every detail exactly but he fears not having them or the day they stop. He brings the people who were important to Natalie into their lives trying to honor her wishes. The twists come when Natalie's secrets come to light as the letters and life goes on. Slowly things are revealed.

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