



Letters for Scarlet: A Novel

Julie C. Gardner

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Pain can take a lifetime to heal, but hope lasts even longer...

Corie Harper is twenty-eight years old when she is first visited by a ghost—in the form of a graduation letter she forgot she wrote. Although she spent a decade burying that desperate girl and her regrets, each page resurrects the past, dragging Corie back to a time when all she craved was Scarlet Hinden's friendship and Tuck Slater's heart. But she couldn't keep them both and keep her word.

Scarlet is haunted in her own way, by memories of Corie and of a night that left her wishing she were dead. But Scarlet is not only alive, she's carrying new life: a baby she never wanted and is terrified to have. Convinced she would be a disastrous mother, she questions whether or not she deserves the love of any man. Especially the father of her child.

Letters for Scarlet traces one friendship from deep roots to branches torn by broken promises and loss.

Author Interview

What was your inspiration to write *Letters for Scarlet*?

When I was teaching high school English, my seniors wrote letters to themselves, which I saved and sent to them five years after graduation. I imagined the impact of a tragedy happening in that time span and increased the period to ten years so the characters could be older and more established in their lives.

There are lots of great women's fiction books to choose from these days! What makes *Letters for Scarlet* fresh?

I switch between two narrators, one in first-person-present and the other in third-person-past, to show their lives from different points of view—both their strengths and flaws. Personally, I don't like characters who are all hero or all villain.

The story focuses on friendship, or rather, a loss of friendship between two former high school friends.

What can you say about their relationship?

As teenagers, Scarlet and Corie were incredibly close and thought they would be best friends forever, but with that closeness came underlying jealousy and competition that carried into their adult lives. Tragedy exacerbated these messy emotions and left holes they're both still trying to fill.

Do you have any more books planned?

Yes! Although there is a sense of closure at the end of *Letters for Scarlet*, I left the door open to explore the characters' futures, together or separately.

What do you enjoy reading?

Primarily, I love women's fiction, literary fiction, and memoir. But any time spent reading is a good time!

Categories

Women's Fiction
Contemporary Women
Coming of Age
Essays & Correspondence: Letters

For readers who enjoy: best friends forever, love and friendship, love triangle, best of friends, family life, letters and essays, correspondence, coming of age friendship

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Leon Fisher:

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Justin Davis:

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