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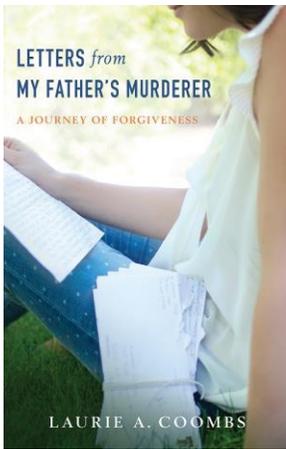


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PRESS RELEASE

Forgiving the unforgiveable

Woman tells shocking and inspirational story of corresponding with her father's murderer



Seattle: If you asked anyone who knew Laurie A. Coombs, they would tell you what an incredibly strong person she was — the kind of person who can make it through *anything*. As Coombs details in her new memoir, **Letters from My Father's Murderer: A Journey of Forgiveness** (Kregel/June 27, 2015/ISBN: 978-0825442292/\$14.99), that outward veneer of strength masked a crumbling interior.

People had good reason to believe Coombs was as tough and tenacious as she appeared. When her father was murdered while she was in college, she sought justice — and found it. Her father's killer now serves two life sentences with no possibility of parole. "I certainly had been through quite a bit, and it seemed to me I had been the one who had gotten myself through it all," Coombs admits. "I don't know how you do it, Laurie,' some would say. And in my heart, I'd think, 'I know. I am pretty amazing.' These comments were intended to encourage me, but they only fueled my pride. And as Proverbs says, pride most certainly does come before a fall."

After the trial ended, Coombs began to rebuild her life; she graduated, got married and began a beautiful family. Yet, Coombs' life soon became overwhelmed by pain, bitterness and anger she couldn't control. She went from doctor to doctor, desperately seeking relief for the physical, mental and emotional symptoms of anxiety and depression. Then one day, she accepted a friend's invitation to church where she found a faith that would transform her heart and start her on the road to healing.

"I felt free for the first time," Coombs reveals. "The joy and peace I so desperately sought finally took residence in my heart. The void I had been unknowingly trying to fill with worldly things, accomplishment, and accolades was filled with the light and love of Christ. I had been made new. "

Coombs began to realize complete healing would only come when she began to seek something infinitely more difficult than justice: true forgiveness of her father's murderer. Coombs' situation took the biblical imperative to "love your enemy" to a whole new level, and as readers will learn in *Letters from My Father's Murderer*, she discovers just how far the power of Christ's redemption can reach when she begins to correspond with the killer.

Filled with the actual correspondence that took place between Coombs and the prisoner, *Letters from My Father's Murderer* provides a unique glimpse into the practical process of forgiveness. It is messy, it is painful, but most of all, it is *possible*. Anyone who has been affected by the sins of others and is desperate to let go of their pain and resentment will find encouragement through Coombs' story; freedom *is* within reach, and there is absolutely nothing that is irredeemable through the power of Jesus Christ.

Learn more about Laurie Coombs and *Letters from My Father's Murderer* at www.lauriecoombs.org and on [Facebook \(lauriecoombs\)](https://www.facebook.com/lauriecoombs), [Twitter \(lauriecoombs\)](https://twitter.com/lauriecoombs) and [Pinterest \(lauriecoombs\)](https://www.pinterest.com/lauriecoombs).

About the Author



In 2010, Laurie Coombs was called to forgive the man who murdered her father. What happened as a result of that journey is now the subject of her new book, *Letters from My Father's Murderer* (Kregel, 2015). Her story has also been featured in Billy Graham's new film, *Heaven*, a part of the "My Hope with Billy Graham" national broadcast.

Coombs writes on her [blog](#) and is a regular writer for [iBelieve.com](#) and [Crosswalk.com](#). She is a contributor to the *NIV Bible for Women: Fresh Insights for Thriving in Today's World* (Zondervan, 2015), has been published in *FullFill* magazine and has appeared on the radio program *Living Joyfully Free*.

With a background in teaching, Coombs is a passionate speaker on the issues of forgiveness, redemption and the blessings associated with following Jesus. She and her husband, Travis, make their home in Nevada along with their two daughters, Ella and Avery. Together, they are in the process of adopting from Ethiopia.

Learn more about Laurie Coombs and *Letters from My Father's Murderer* at www.lauriecoombs.org and on [Facebook \(lauriecoombs\)](#), [Twitter \(lauriecoombs\)](#) and [Pinterest \(lauriecoombs\)](#).

Suggested Interview Questions

- Why did you want to write *Letters from My Father's Murderer*, which details such a tragic and painful part of your life?
- Tell us about the significance of the few interactions you had with your father just prior to his murder.
- You're very honest in the book about the mistakes your father made and how that affected your teen years and even your choice to reject the faith you had been raised in. Was that difficult for you to do?
- Almost immediately after learning about your father's death, you say the hate for his killer began to fill your heart. How did that hatred affect you?
- How did this experience change how you view the attitude toward violence in the media?
- What was it like for you to return to college and complete your daily classes and tasks after such a life-altering event?
- Before sentencing at trial, what did you tell the jury on the day you stood in the court room and came face-to-face with your father's killer?
- You began to build a lovely life with your family in the years following the trial and appeared very strong. What happened that finally brought you to the point where you turned to the Lord?
- What were some of the little daily miracles and occurrences that drew you to Jesus when you started seeking Him?
- What made you decide to begin corresponding with your father's killer? What did you hope would come from it?
- Tell us about the moment you were finally able to forgive.
- Your father's killer wrote, "Your testimony may have saved a life," in one of his letters. What did he mean by that?
- You prayed a prayer at the beginning of your forgiveness journey. Tell us about that, and how it was answered.
- What have you learned from your interaction with him?
- What is his status today? Do you maintain regular contact with him?
- Why do people often feel as though forgiving others means they "got away" with the wrong they committed?
- What is at the heart of the message you share in your book?
- What do you mean when you say your "pain won't be wasted"?
- There are people who believe they will never be able to forgive people who have hurt them. What would you say to them?
- You chose to begin *Letters from My Father's Murderer* with Romans 13:12, which says, "The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." Tell us about the significance of that Scripture to you.

To request a review copy of *Letters from My Father's Murderer*, schedule an interview with Laurie Coombs or for more information, please contact Audra Jennings, audra@liffusegroup.com.

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