



APPENDIX C: CHARLIE'S MONUMENT: THE BOOK



*ADULTS SCORNE*D HIM, school children jeered him, yet Charlie was determined that his life would amount to something, that he would have not lived in vain. Born physically handicapped, and orphaned while still a boy, Charlie also carried with him the legacy of his resolute mother: You can do anything you want if you want it badly enough.

Charlie's will to live and to live largely will eventually win him the respect of his peers, the gratitude of his town, and even the love of a very special woman who is able to look beyond his deformities into his noble heart.

Written by Blaine Yorgason and published originally in 1976, *Charlie's Monument* is a timeless and much-loved story that has endured throughout the years. Before his passing in late 2024, Blaine Yorgason read and wholeheartedly endorsed the *Kindred Hearts* screenplay, declaring, "Peter Johnson is the only director who can truly capture the heart, power, and profound meaning of *Charlie's Monument*. His vision and understanding of the story's depth are unmatched."

Amazon & Goodreads: 2,000+ Five Star Ratings

In its first two years, *Charlie's Monument* sold 400,000 copies, surpassing well over two million since. With over 2,000 glowing reviews on Amazon and Goodreads, readers praise its deep emotional impact and timeless wisdom, calling it heart-clenching, soul-touching, and profoundly meaningful.

Its powerful storytelling highlights universal themes of perseverance, redemption, and love's transformative power. *Kindred Hearts*, the film inspired by these themes, has the potential to resonate just as deeply, bringing its rich storytelling and poignant character



arcs to life for both devoted fans and new audiences alike.

One of the Best Books You Will Ever

Read About What is Important in Life

“This short book will only take you an hour or so to read. I suggest you set aside the time to read it in one sitting to get the most effect. If you can read this and not be touched with both sadness and joy you may want to check your heart and make sure it is still there.”

An Amazing Story

“We’ve had this book in our family for 40 plus years and our old copy is falling apart. My son did a book review for Jr. High school one year and it impressed the teacher so much that she asked to read it. I gave that son (who is now over 50) his own copy a few years ago for his birthday and he laughed with surprise and delight over getting his own copy. I had to get another one for a grandson’s 15th birthday. Our family loves the message of this book.”

Fantastic

“One of the most heart-clenching books I have ever read. This author has a divine gift of using words to touch the soul. Absolutely makes a lasting impression upon your heart.”

Touches the Heart

“*Charlie’s Monument* is a deeply moving story of resilience, forgiveness, and triumph. Its powerful message still lingers with me. An unforgettable and inspiring story.”

Charlie’s Monument

“I loved it because I just recently lost a disabled daughter that was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta . It is a very crippling disease that results in many many broken bones and deformities. She had many physical limitations but she never gave up, and she was loved and adored by so many people. I was told by a friend about the book and immediately ordered it.”

Great Book

“I’ve read this book before when I was younger but now that I’m older this book has a deeper meaning and understanding for me. I love reading about Charlie and his life and what trails he had to overcome and he did it. I would encourage anyone who is struggling with challenges and difficulties to read this and this how this book can inspire their lives. I love this book and I wish everyone to read it.”

Timeless Classic

“I fell in love with this story when I was in high school. (when the book was first written) I’ve given my copy away several times and in the last few years. Great book, everyone should read it.”

Great Book

“This book shows strength when one person could be pushed to their limits and quit. Charlie’s was a pillar of light and hope for many. It touched my heart?”



Love

“This book has a special place in our family. It’s an amazing, heartwarming story that reaches to your core. Every time I read it, I’m reminded of what truly matters in life.”

God’s Gift to Us . . . LIFE

“A marvelous story that should be read by every young person and to every child. Self esteem is very important and knowing that we are a child of God... should never make us feel inferior to anyone and with God’s help we will be able to overcome any adversity and keep on smiling.”

Wonderful Story

“Blaine M. Yorgason is a wonderful author. Charlie’s Monument is a wonderful story of sweet love. Charlie did leave a Monument. It’s also a story of how we can all do hard things despite our challenges.”

Love

“My mom read this book to us when I was little. It has had a huge impact on my life. It has inspired me to treat others with more kindness and understanding. The poem at the beginning is amazing!”

Inspiring

“Love this book thank you so much!”

One of the Best Reads

“One of the most touching books you will ever read. You will not forget it. It will put your life into perspective. I& Good Readst never fails to speak to me. It is a deep well of wisdom in very few words.”

Love It

“I grew up reading this book and bought it for a friend who was going through some difficulties. It is such an amazing book to learn from to appreciate what you have.”

Awesome Book

“This is a timeless story of using what you have been given. This is a book that you will read over and over.”

We Should All Have a Charlie In Our Life

“I did not put this book down once I began the journey with Charlie. I guarantee it will make you cry! Once you’ve read it, you’ll likely want to share it with someone you care about. Ever since I read it for the first time over 15 years ago, it has been my favorite book! We should all have a Charlie in our life.”

A Family Favorite

“It’s such a good book. It’s a story of a boy born with a lot of physical problems and is at first rejected by everyone but his loving mother but he eventually wins the respect of those around him and has a very inspiring life. I loved this book. Before I read it, my three older brothers and sister told me how great it was and now I agree!!”

Charlie’s Monument

“Whenever I re-read it I find myself wanting to be a better person, and I feel less cynical about mankind in general. If I need a pick-me-up I know I can turn to this book story.”



My All-Time Favorite Book

“This is my ALL TIME FAVORITE BOOK! I have read this book more times than I can remember! Such a wonderful story! I have read it aloud to my husband, and each of my children too! This is a must read! A beautiful story of a life filled with trials and the person you can become in spite of them!”

My Heart Aches and Glows

“A lot of emotion is packed in this little book. It isn’t often that my heart both aches and glows after finishing a read, but it did with this one.

We Named Our Daughter Charli

“It was so very beautiful! I loved the whole thing, and loved the messages that were in it. We named our daughter Charli, not entirely after the character in this book, but it was an influence. She was very small and premature, and we knew in order for her to survive she would have to be strong and perservere. She is a strong little girl now.”

So Inspiring

“This is the BEST book! Everyone should read it! It is so inspiring! It teaches people that what’s found on the outside is nothing compared to the inside. Too many people look on what they see on the outside of a person instead of what is inside. This is just a super, wonderful book! I will warn you that it made me cry, as I could relate to Charlie in so many ways. I could feel what he felt.”

I Love What it Teaches

“I have read this book several times in the past. I love what it teaches. We sat down as a family and read it tonight. My kids sat glued to it the whole time and we had an excellent discussion about loving who we are, having faith in who we are, and about how love can help us overcome overwhelming feelings of hate and despair. We decided that we were all going to try a little harder to be more loving to all those around us. Great book! Excellent family read. Awesome lessons!”

This Is a Remarkable Story. It Had a Great Impact on Me

“This was such a wonderful story of enduring love amidst a life of trial and hardship. I really appreciated the message that happiness is a decision and can always be found if one is seeking it. I also loved that even though Charlie was orphaned at a young age, he remembered the teachings of his mother and strove to follow her guidance. This is a remarkable story. it had a great impact on me.”

I’ve Read it Over & Over & Over,

“This has to be one of my favorite, if not my very favorite book of all time. I’ve read it over & over & over, with each time brings new feelings of how blessed I am. It also pushes me to want to do better, to be better, to seek for the good in others & seek for ways that I can make a difference....to build my monument. Awesome book that all should read & reread.”



It's Such a Touching Story

"Just got done reading this book. I loved it, I cried through the whole thing. It's such a touching story and gives many insights to what Charlie went through, and how he overcame all things. This book put thoughts in my heart how I can overcome the hurt in my life as Charlie."

I Am Inspired

"This is one of my all time favorite books!! I am inspired every time I read this book to try a little harder."

Truly a Gratitude Filling, Inspiring Book

"One of my most favorite reads of all time. My Grandma Wilkins used to read this to my sisters and my sisters would read it to me. It's a book that teaches divine worth, looking at obstacles as blessings, finding joy in God's handy work, rising from deep opposition with gratitude, and always letting kindness and love win. Truly a gratitude filling, inspiring book."

A Tremendous Story

"Such a beautiful book. A tremendous story of hope, love, integrity, and service."

It Meant So Much to Me

"One of my VERY FAVORITE books. I actually gave this to my husband (While we were dating) because it meant so much to me. I think that's what prompted him to propose:) I'm a sucker for feel-good books, and this is a great one for that!"

I Cried Again

"My dad read me this story when I was a little girl. I just cried and cried. I read it to my husband on a short road trip recently and of course I cried again. It is a great story about enduring to the end and what are most important things in life."

Gave Me a Sense of Self-Worth

"WoW! That was the feeling I walked away with after reading this book. This book gave me a sense of worth...no matter what we feel we can't do there is still worth in living our life! I highly recommend it to all!"

The Story to Me is a Gift

"So touching and inspirational. I fell in love with Charlie and wished he were real. The author's notes tell how he came to write the story, and you discover that Charlie in fact was real. It made me cry. The story to me is a gift."

So Many Wonderful Messages

"I have read this book a couple of times and love, love it! So many wonderful messages throughout the story. It always makes me want to be a more compassionate person."

It Touches My Soul

"I love this book, it touches my soul. One of the most heart warming, tear jerking motivational stories I have ever read. I love Charlie!"



Summary of Feedback & Reviews for Charlie's Monument

Overall Reception:

Readers on Amazon and Goodreads widely praise *Charlie's Monument* by Blaine M. Yorgason for its inspirational and heartwarming narrative. The book has received over 2,000 5-star reviews, indicating strong emotional impact and widespread appreciation.

Key Themes in Reviews:

1. Inspirational Message: Many readers describe the book as life-changing, emphasizing its deep message about perseverance, faith, and overcoming challenges.
2. Emotional Depth: Multiple reviews mention how the story moved them to tears and left a lasting impression.
3. Powerful: Reviewers report the book delivers profound wisdom and a compelling moral lesson.
4. Timeless Appeal: Many readers mention reading it years ago and revisiting it, finding the story just as moving decades later.
5. Recommended for All Ages: The book is often recommended for young readers, adults and families, and those looking for an uplifting and faith-affirming story.

Audience Reception of the Movie *Kindred Hearts*

Since *Kindred Hearts* is based on *Charlie's Monument*, we can anticipate the film's reception based on the book's reviews and themes.

Expected Audience Reaction:

1. Highly Positive Reception Among Fans of the Book: Readers who loved *Charlie's Monument* will likely embrace the film because the film will remain faithful to the book's emotional depth and inspirational themes.
2. Appeal to Values-Based & Inspirational Moviegoers: Given the book's strong values-based appeal, *Kindred Hearts* will resonate deeply with audiences who



appreciate stories of perseverance, personal growth, and the triumph of the human spirit..

3. Emotional & Heartfelt Impact: *Kindred Hearts* will capture the book's emotional storytelling well and audiences will likely respond with tears, admiration, and inspiration.
4. Strong Word-of-Mouth Appeal: *Kindred Hearts* will benefit from strong word-of-mouth because its emotionally compelling story will leave a lasting impact, prompting viewers to share their experience with others. Its themes of resilience, purpose, and overcoming adversity resonate universally, making it a film people will recommend to family and friends who appreciate heartfelt, values-driven storytelling. Additionally, movies that inspire and uplift tend to create personal connections, sparking conversations and organic buzz long after the credits roll.

Conclusion: A Film for Values-Driven Audiences

Kindred Hearts is set to resonate deeply with audiences who appreciate stories of resilience, self-discovery, and overcoming life's greatest challenges.. While the novel carries elements of faith, its core message is universal—focusing on resilience, purpose, and the power of overcoming adversity. These themes are not tied to any specific belief system but rather to values that transcend religious or spiritual boundaries.

By focusing on universal values, *Kindred Hearts* has the potential to reach a broad and diverse audience, touching the hearts of those who believe in the power of perseverance, love, and the human capacity to rise above life's greatest challenges. It is a film that speaks to the soul of humanity, making it not just a story to watch, but a journey to feel.