

Leftovers Laura Wiess

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It wasn't Eli and the Thirteenth Confession that hooked me. I mean, I knew she was unique and special, and "Lucky" is a spectacular song, but maybe it was because I heard some of the songs on that ...

A devastating novel of desperation and revenge from Laura Wiess. In this follow-up to her heartbreaking debut, *Such a Pretty Girl*, once again spins a shattering tale of the tragedies that befall young women who are considered society's Leftovers. Blair and Ardith are best friends who have committed an unforgivable act in the name of love and justice. But in order to understand what could drive two young women to such extreme measures, first you'll have to understand why. You'll have to listen as they describe parents who are alternately absent and smothering, classmates who mock and shun anyone different, and young men who are allowed to hurt and dominate without consequence. You will have to learn what it's like to be a teenage girl who locks her bedroom door at night, who has been written off by the adults around her as damaged goods. A girl who has no one to trust except the one person she's

forbidden to see. You'll have to understand what it's really like to be forgotten and abandoned in America today. Are you ready?

Meredith was promised nine years of safety, but they only gave her three. Her father, who was sent to prison for sexually abusing Meredith and other children in the small town, has been released early on good behaviour. He was supposed to be locked up until Meredith's eighteenth birthday, when she would be free of her abusive father and her delusional mother, who dwells on a fantasy that the three of them will be a happy family once more. But Meredith is only fifteen, and her father is out of prison...and her mother is bringing him home. And Meredith won't let him hurt her, or anyone else, ever again. No matter what the cost. Lyrical, suspenseful, and emotionally shattering, *SUCH A PRETTY GIRL* is the compelling story of one young woman's painful fight for survival - and her journey back to herself.

Lauded by critics and authors for her heartbreakingly real heroines, Laura Wiess brings readers another devastating tale of betrayal and redemption rich with the raw emotion that made *Such a Pretty Girl* a classic. How can you make someone love you when they won't? And what if that person happens to be your mother? Sayre Bellavia grew up knowing she was a mistake: unplanned and unwanted. At five months shy of eighteen, she's become an expert in loneliness, heartache, and neglect. Her whole life she's been cursed, used, and left behind. Swallowed a thousand tears and ignored a thousand deliberate cruelties. Sayre's stuck by her mother through hell, tried to help her, be near her, be important to her even as her mother slipped away into a violent haze of addiction, destroying the only chance Sayre ever had for a real family. Now her mother is lying in a hospital bed, near death, ravaged by her own destructive behavior. And as Sayre fights her way to her mother's bedside, she is terrified but determined to get the answer to a question no one should ever have to ask: Did my mother ever really love me? And what will Sayre do if the answer is yes?

Seventeen-year-old Hanna has been in love with Seth for as long as she can remember, but now that her feelings are requited and she and Seth are in an actual relationship, it feels like love just isn't enough. Seth is controlling and all they seem to do anymore is hurt each other. If that's what love is, Hanna doesn't want any part of it. Besides, she has something else on her mind: graduation. But she's been ignoring the school's community service requirement for years, and now she needs to clock in some hours in a hurry. She volunteers as a caretaker for the Schoenmakers, an elderly couple who live on a farm behind Hanna's house. Mrs. Schoenmaker has advanced Parkinson's, and her husband can't always be there to watch over her. While caring for Mrs. Schoenmaker, Hanna gets drawn into an audiobook that the older woman is listening to, a love story of passion and sacrifice and shared hurts and complete devotion. She's fascinated by the idea that love like that can truly exist, and without her even realizing it, the story begins to change her. But what Hanna doesn't know is that the story she's listening to is not fiction -- and that Mrs. Schoenmaker and her husband's devotion to each other is about to reach its shattering, irrevocable conclusion...

Like *The Lovely Bones* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Cammie McGovern's breakout novel is at once a hypnotic thriller and an affecting portrait of people as real as our next-door neighbors. In *Eye Contact*, two children vanish in the woods behind their elementary school. Hours later, nine-year-old Adam is found alive, the sole witness to his playmate's murder. But because Adam has autism, he is a silent witness. Only his mother, Cara, can help decode his behavior for the police. As the suspense ratchets, *Eye Contact* becomes a heart-stopping exploration of the bond between a mother and a very special child.

Following her stunning and critically acclaimed debut *Such a Pretty Girl*, Wiess crafts an emotionally compelling tale of the circumstances that lead two young women to commit a desperate and regrettable act in the name of justice.

The voices of the dead become inescapable clues for lightning-struck sleuth Harper Connelly in this “winning series” (Booklist) of murder—and beyond—from #1 New York Times bestselling author Charlaine Harris... Harper Connelly heads to Doraville, North Carolina to find a missing boy—one of several teenage boys who have disappeared over the last five years. And all of them are calling for Harper. She finds them, buried in the frozen ground. All she wants is to get out of town before she’s caught in the media storm—until she herself is attacked and becomes part of the investigation. Soon Harper will learn more than she cared to about the dark mysteries and long-hidden secrets of Doraville—knowledge of the dead that makes her next in line to end up in an ice-cold grave...

Distill the great spiritual teachings from around the world down to their most basic principles, and one thread emerges to unite them all: kindness. In *The Force of Kindness*, Sharon Salzberg, one of the nation's most respected Buddhist authors and meditation teachers, offers practical instruction on how we can cultivate this essential trait within ourselves. Through her stories, teachings, and guided meditations, Sharon Salzberg takes readers on an exploration of what kindness truly means and the simple steps to realize its effects immediately. She reveals that kindness is not the sweet, naive sentiment that many of us assume it is, but rather an immensely powerful force that can transform individual lives and ripple out, changing and improving relationships, the environment, our communities, and ultimately the world. Readers will learn specific techniques for cultivating forgiveness; turning compassion into action; practicing speech that is truthful, helpful, and loving; and much more. When we fan even the smallest ember of kindness, according to Sharon Salzberg, we begin to overcome our own fears, doubts, and personal attachments—and tap an endless source of gentle strength that is always available to us. With her graceful writing and six guided meditations on CD, this beloved meditation master empowers readers to enhance *The Force of Kindness* in their own spiritual practice.

“Laura Wiess’s masterful prose kept me turning the pages. This is the first book in a very long time that made me say, ‘Wish I’d written this’” (Ellen Hopkins, author of *Crank*, on *Such a Pretty Girl*). Laura Wiess captures the visceral emotion of a girl’s journey from innocence to devastating loss and, ultimately, to a strange and unexpected kind of understanding—in this beautiful and painfully honest new novel. Are there any answers when someone you love makes a tragic choice? Before and After. That’s how Rowan Areno sees her life now. Before: she was a normal sixteen-year-old—a little too sheltered by her police officer father and her mother. After: everything she once believed has been destroyed in the wake of a shattering tragedy, and every day is there to be survived. If she had known, on that Friday in March when she cut school, that a random stranger’s shocking crime would have traumatic consequences, she never would have left campus. If the crime video never went viral, maybe she could have saved her mother, grandmother—and herself—from the endless replay of heartache and grief. Finding a soul mate in Eli, a witness to the crime who is haunted by losses of his own, Rowan begins to see there is no simple, straightforward path to healing wounded hearts. Can she learn to trust, hope, and believe in happiness again?

The first ten lies they tell you in high school. "Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically

stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself. *Speak* was a 1999 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature.

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