



Leftovers

Laura Wiess

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A devastating novel of desperation and revenge from one of today's most compelling new voices in fiction. In this follow-up to her heartbreaking debut, *Such a Pretty Girl*, Laura Wiess 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?

Leftovers Details

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From Reader Review Leftovers for online ebook

Adriana says

This was a very compelling read that delves into issues of neglected kids, bad behavior, bullying and teasing, and friendship. Told from the perspectives of best friends Blair and Ardith after they have gone through a slew of events leading to the demise of characters from their own lives, the book covers many issues that teens deal with on a daily basis. Each girl is coming from a completely different place, but they both share a hope to some day extract themselves from their current situations and come into their own. Blair's mom is consumed and obsessed with some day becoming a judge, so for now she is a cut-throat and cold-blooded attorney who is more concerned with appearances than with her own husband and daughter. Ardith's parents have no sense of parental responsibility and they host parties where under age kids are allowed to drink and grope any girl who is unlucky enough to pass under their radar. Both girls find solace in their friendship, but when Blair's mother forbids her to see Ardith they start growing up fast. It's saddening to think that the situations described in the story are not far from the truth of what does go on to lots of teenagers these days, and you could even say that the events are tame compared to some of the things that do go on. I really liked the voices of these girls, each was distinct to her personality and you could see how they developed as time went on and certain things happened to them. You could root for them but you could also say that they made some pretty stupid choices along the way. The most despicable characters are the parents of course - their lack of emotion and of responsibility was disheartening and it drove Blair and Ardith to do much of what they did. I don't think you can always blame the parents 100% for how their kids turn out, but at the same time, what they did and did not do influenced at least 75% of their children's behaviors. In the end Blair and Ardith grow a thick skin to the world around them, but there is a sliver of hope that the future is open for them to make of it something worthwhile. Excellent story telling.

Shannon says

Two girls, Blair and Ardith, are two best friends. Both of them have been neglected by their parents in different ways. Blair's mother is a defensive attorney, is completely self centered, and focused only on becoming a judge. Her father has lost all interest in being a family and is having an affair. Ardith's parents have yet to grow up. They hold parties for their 17 year old son, provide alcohol and cigarettes to minors. Ardith doesn't feel safe in her own home because of her older brother's friends that sexually harass her. These two girls bond over having broken family lives and are shunned in school because they are not considered to be normal. However, once Blair is raped by Ardith's older brother their lives begin to spin out of control. Blair's mother discovers that the girls drank on New Year's Eve and was worried about her reputation so she forbids Blair to see Ardith. The two became extremely distant and had changed dramatically. After Ardith's brother crashed his car while drunk, Blair's mother took over the case. She spun it to seem like he had done nothing wrong and this angered the girls. In the end, to stop Ardith's brother from hurting anyone again the girls devised a plan. They were able to get Ardith's brother caught in the act of trying to rape another girl, specifically a wealthy girl with parents that held prominent positions that would speak up about what had happened.

Overall, this book was fast paced and attention grabbing. I could not put it down. It was shocking to see how the parents of both Blair and Ardith acted so selfishly. It was an extremely good read and I highly recommend it.

Michelle says

Usually the books I've read feature the love between a boy and girl as the core of the story, but with this novel it was the love and loyalty between two best friends Ardith and Blair that was captured. I could not put this book down; the style of how it was written switching between both of their sides of the story which not only makes you feel like you were there but highlights the bond between these two girls who know each other so well that they naturally mould together when telling their story. This tale of two girls with completely different lifestyles but are going through the exact same life experiences is just beautiful and shows that no matter how lost they get or how dark it becomes they have each other.....5 stars and I would definitely recommend!!!

Greta is Erikasbuddy says

Your best friend. You two were inseparable. No one could come between. Not your parents, not the boys, the teachers, the kids that called you names,... the ones that started the rumors.

You two had each other's backs.

Then one day you start to drift apart. You still wear your BeFri necklace but she put her St Ends locket away and replaced it with Jonny's class ring.

Time speeds up and you start to drift apart. The world just rolls on by without even thinking twice. You learn to evolve.

But in the end... you always have each other's back. In the end no matter what happens.... she's still your best friend and nothing can tear you apart.

This book was freaking awesome!! It's about two best friends from different sides of the telling the same

story. But every story has two sides and someone to hear it. It's a coming of age tale. A story about what happens when the fairytale ends and real life begins. What happens when boys start to look and your mother starts to watch. What happens when you father won't stop looking and your brother notices your friends.

It's not sugar coated.

This story reminded me of my high school days and how I was the Bad Influence and my best friend was a prisoner in her own house. We were only allowed to see each other at school or when she snuck over to her grandmother's house on Saturday mornings to call me at 6am (my mother happily giving me the phone because she knew we'd be lost w/o one another). It brought back a lot of memories but also made me remember things that I wanted to forget. And because of that I found it brilliant.

I found this geared towards my generation. I don't know how a bubbly little 13 year old would take it (Note: Greta believes that only her generation was most awesome and that her parents still don't understand her). They'd probably want to know when the vampires and abtastic wolf boys are going to join the mix and rescue the two besties from their miserable lives. (note: Greta has a hard time understanding kids of today... her 13 year old son doesn't think she understands him)

If you're looking for fluff then this isn't the book for you. But if you are looking for a real life story that will keep you guessing until the end then you've definitely picked up the right book... and the ending just might shock you.... I couldn't even guess it.

*** Can't wait to read more from this author. 5 stars !! ***

Kerryn (RatherBeReading) says

I struggled to decide how I felt about this book.

This is definitely and interesting and somewhat compelling read, however, I did really struggle with the writing style the swapping in and out of the second person narrative style was really hard to follow and I found very frustrating at times.

I liked the idea of Blair and Ardith both having completely different and yet equally horrible home lives and using their friendship with each other to try and get through it.

I struggled with the actions of the two main characters in this book, I just don't buy that two people would

stoop to the level that these two did in order to seek some kind of 'revenge'.

Overall I am confused about my feelings for this book but I did still enjoy it.

PinkAmy loves 'books', cats and naps; says

Grade: A

Best friends Blair's and Ardith's families put the capital D in dysfunction. Blair has to be perfect to help maintain the facade of a perfect family so that her mother will be nominated for judgeship. Never mind that her emotionally bankrupt parents don't seem to care about her feelings. Ardith artfully dodges sexual impropriety from her father, brother and his friends while her mother says, "Boys will be boys." Blair and Ardith just want to be loved appropriately. Both girls have a confession to make.

Both Blair and Ardith are flawed, imperfect characters who, at their core, just want to be loved and protected. At times I wanted to scoop both away from their families and give them safe places to live. Other times I wanted to beg them to tell their guidance counselor or Officer Dave what was happening. When they talk describe The Incident I felt both sympathetic and angry at their lack of forethought.

Laura Wiess masterfully shows LEFTOVERS in alternating chapters from both Ardith's and Blair's points of view in the unique second person that teens sometimes use. Both voices were strong in their vulnerability, sometimes unreliable due to their age appropriate limited insight, allowing readers to see what the girls do not.

I loved, loved, loved LEFTOVERS. Page one pulled me in and didn't let go until long after I finished. It left me wanting more. My only criticism is that I would have loved an epilogue. The end wasn't open, but didn't feel like enough. I wanted more.

THEMES: Friendship, family dysfunction, siblings, sexual abuse, rape

LEFTOVERS is a dark, delicious tale of friendship, dysfunctional families, sexual violence and the lengths two fifteen-year-olds will go to break away from abuse.

Ashlee Foster says

I have no idea what people saw in this book. I'm being nice by giving it 2 stars. The writing was strange - I want to read a book, not be talked AT. "You did this and your mom came home, blah blah blah" - The perspective of the book was weird. Answers were given in the dialogue when a question wasn't even asked and you just had to figure it out yourself. It was odd. It took me FOREVER to read this book because I kept reading other books in between, just because I didn't care enough to finish this. I finally finished it this morning just so I could move it to a different folder on my kindle so I could stop looking at it. The story was poorly written, the act of the girls was heinous and make them just as guilty as the other parties in the story. Condoning their behavior is not something I'm willing to do. I read the entire book, and yes I was curious about what it was that the girls actually did, but finding out in the last few pages and being pissed about it didn't sit well with me. I've read other books by this author and wasn't this disappointed, but honestly, I think

this book was a waste of my time and I'm glad I can finally move on!..

Rachel says

I recently purchased this book because of aesthetic reasons. I stopped dead in my tracks at the "New In Paperback" section because of the gorgeous blue cover.

"Ah, another book published by MTV," I said outloud.

But honestly, I know as well as anyone who has experienced them that these small, cleverly covered books are actually a light refreshment compared to the world of adult literature and classics.

"Leftovers" is no exception. While I don't expect any adult male to really appreciate this novel, I would assume that a woman of any age would be able to relate, and in a good way. This is a teen novel in all aspects except the typical predictable storyline. I honestly didn't expect the ending, even though it was foreshadowed a few times. Nothing mindblowing happens, but the book honestly kept me interested from beginning to end. So much so, that I read the book in one sitting.

As for a brief summary, the book is about 2 teenage girls who are best friends. Blair lives in an upper class, snooty family who is too busy with their lawyer jobs and affairs (literally and figuratively) that they see no time for her. Blair is continuously changing to please her mother and give her the "appearance" of a perfect family so that her mother may become judge in her town. Meanwhile, her parents move her into a new home, do something horrible to something she cherished, lie to her, treat her like an infant, buy her new clothes that she doesn't want to wear, and forbid her to see the most important person in her life. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Blair's best friend Ardith lives in a house with her two parents and her brother. Her father is a creepy, overweight, middle-aged man who tends to flirt a little TOO much with his sons female friends, and her mother is a 45 year old woman sporting faded tattoos and extremely skimpy clothes. They allow underage drinking parties and sex to occur in their house daily, buy cartons of cigarettes for everyone, all the while joining in on the action. Ardith has installed a deadbolt on her bedroom door to keep her brother's friends from doing anything to her, and possibly even her own father. While her house is on the tip of every teenager's mouth, she does everything she possibly can to avoid it at all costs.

These two girls join together to be each other's sounding board. And when things get WAY too out of hand, they need to come up with a plan to finally get themselves out of there, and save a friend who has not only been the only adult role model in their lives, but who has also come into an incredible amount of danger. Their plan is teetering on the line of morality and conscience. You almost literally SEE these two girls grow up through the pages, and by the end you can't believe it is the same two innocent girls you first met.

The plot line soars, and the characters are all someone you have met before in your own life. It is written through the eyes of both girls, and they are telling the story to another character in the book. It is a unique way of writing, and I enjoyed it throughout.

I will be purchasing this book for my younger sister, as well as the author's previous book. It is a great book for any female to read if you'd like a little break from all the typical chick lit or unending seriousness of adult lit, and it is also a perfect book for any teenage girl.

Hannah says

The Novel, 'Leftovers' is an interesting book with a unique point of view. It was published in August of 2008 by author Laura Weiss. She has already proven herself as a writer with a unique style. She isn't wary of topics that are controversial or not widely talked about. The novel is definitely a fiction novel directed at youths. The characters are very well developed and especially the two main characters from which the story was told. I think that someone who found themselves in these types of situations or someone who has this kind of home life, would find the characters authentic and be able to relate to them. I think a little more insight from other characters outside of the two main ones could've been a little beneficial as well. The plot is very original because it is two girls telling a story to someone in a very broken up and jumpy format. It isn't predictable and it really sets the novel apart in that aspect. The novel doesn't gain much from the geography because it isn't really mentioned or a big deal. This novel has a very descriptive and explicit scene between a boy and a girl and it reminded me a lot of 'Lucky' by Alice Sebold. It has a similar scene. This book is similar to Laura Weiss's other novel, 'Such a Pretty Girl' that has similar scandalous topics. The book obviously has a very controversial topic regarding molestation and also the unfortunate relationship between young girls and boys. The main point of the novel was to deliver the image of these two young girls fighting back against a society full of boys with too much power over others and a community that allowed it. I would recommend this novel to young adult readers both male and female. The mature subject matter deems it appropriate for older audiences so I wouldn't recommend it to everyone.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by JodiG. for TeensReadToo.com

Have you ever felt alienated from the rest of the world? Have you spoken and known that nobody was listening? Have you ever screamed “No” and been ignored at every turn? Ardith and Blair have experienced all that and more. And now they have committed a despicable act of vengeance in an effort to make everything “right” again.

Blair and Ardith are best friends. They are fifteen, in the ninth grade, and have miserable, though very different, home lives.

Ardith lives in a party house. Her parents are nightly hosts to a group of drunken teenage boys. Without limits, the boys control the house and any female that dares to enter it. Not even Ardith is safe from their advances. Blair comes from an affluent family. Her parents are successful in their careers, have a new home, and are poised to rise through the local social and political ranks. Now her mother is making decisions to shape the family image; decisions that are wrenching Blair away from the those she loves most. In addition to their family problems, Blair and Ardith are now becoming victims of the school rumor mill and some very cruel classmates. How much can they be expected to tolerate?

LEFTOVERS is a dramatic and disturbing story of two girls who have been pushed to great lengths. It is written in alternating points of view, as each girl describes the events that led them to a final, desperate act. LEFTOVERS is a captivating book that will keep you turning the pages.

Lucy says

We mutinied quietly, using every lesson we'd been taught by every person who'd ever used us for their own benefit.

Blair and Ardith are best friends, and they are both unhappy. Blair's career-driven mother is shaping her family into the perfect public face, and ignoring the fact that they're falling apart on the inside. And Ardith's parents are the Cool Parents, the ones who provide a party house to all the underage kids in the neighborhood. They are best friends, and they are the leftovers, the ones that nobody wants or cares about or listens to. But when things get so bad that they can't take it anymore, Blair and Ardith are driven by love and the desire for justice to an unspeakable act.

This book is intense. From the very first page, you can't look away, and trust me, you have no idea where it's going. But you need to know, and so you read on with an ever-increasing sense of dread, as both girls tell how they were broken down further and further and further until there was nowhere else to go. And when you finally realize where things are headed, you see that it's been coming all along. And it's sharp and brilliant and scary and intense. And it's scary because you know just how true it could be.

Faith says

MAY CONTAIN SLIGHT SPOILERS

God, 38% in and I'm ready to start bawling!

I definitely was not expecting this sort of thing. (I was thinking this would be a bit like *Pretty Little Liars*, except where the girls were treated badly) These girls are managing to do everything that a teenager is told not to or anything a teen has thought about. They drink, smoke, cut, and other things that make me want to sob. I can deal with the parents being cruel but when you bring the rape and one of the girls parents killing her dog, that makes me want to go back to my fantasy books about romance and action where the hero(ine) can beat her fears and come out with love.

So this book is pretty much scaring the crap out of me. Though, I will say, the author knows how to write a real story because the girls sound like teenagers and act like them. But I guess I might finish to see what these girls did (I am a little curious!).

Thank God, at the mid way point, it tones down a bit in shock factor.

FINISHED

So this book wasn't too bad. After the first half of the book, the girls are strong and fighting back. The first half was basically shock factor and goes down as the book progresses.

As you read, you see the girls' thoughts and fantasies slowly die as they lose their innocence. Blair and

Ardith are both strong girls, through the story. Ardith has to deal with her drunk family and locks her door at night because the guys in the house can touch you regardless of who you are. Blair has a mother who cares more about other people's opinions and is unraveling Blair and her family for her fame.

It is seriously sad to think of our society in this way but hopefully, some people have read this novel, seen error in their ways and became better people.

Darkfallen says

When Greta told me I needed to read this, I jumped at it. As per usual I am so SO SO glad I did. But lets get something straight. When Greta tells me to read something, I do it, and then I usually feel a little dirty afterwards. *waggles eyebrows* If ya know what I mean. This book also left me feeling a bit dirty, but

NOT NOT NOT

in the way that you think. I feel worn raw by the sheer truth in all this.

Laura Wiess takes us on a journey into the lifes of teenagers Blair and Ardith. She takes you to a place that is dark, yet you still are able to find disturbing humour. This book is an unspoken truth of our youth. A big lump usual found hidden under the rug, now lies scattered across the floor for all the world to see....

Blair and Aridith are bff's. The bond that makes their friendship stronger, also seems to the misery that pulls them apart. Blair is the rich kid, who's parents believe that appearances are EVERYTHING. Blair is just an appearance, not a loved daughter as she should be, do not confuse the two. Blair spends most her time all alone in her big cold house, unless of course Ardith rescues her from her solitude.

Aridith is the girl from the wrong side of the tracks. Also not to be confused with the bad seed, because she is anything but. She spends all of her time at school working hard to get away from the stain on society, that is her family. While at home the parties are endless, the pervs know no boundaries, and the' *keg squats in the corner, like the resident troll*. Aridith knows a world where little girls sleep with padlocks on the inside of their bedroom door, because you never know when being his daughter will stop being enough to keep his hands at bay. Ardith keeps Blair away from her stained home life at all cost, but when Christmas rolls around, and Blair is left alone, you can't leave the drunken house so you invite her over. Nothing was the same after that. Life's were changed, friendships strained, and consequences must be paid.

Revenge is a dish best served cold, because as you will see, sometimes in order to pay the piper others will have to be sacrificed....

"You've both outgrown the girls you were defending, and the ones that stand in their place are now armed with powerful, adult-sanctioned weapons. Tomorrow. The end will mark the beginning."

I know I'm leaving you hanging, but I mean isn't that kinda the point?! But before I go I will give you a glimpse into this story with a quote from Ardith that just really stuck with me, in a so true, haunting kind of way.

"Time is not your friend. It doesn't care if you live fast or die slow, if you aren't or if you aren't. It was here before you arrived and will go on after you leave. Time doesn't care who wins or who loses, if your life span is empty, honorable or shameful. Time is indifferent. It simply doesn't give a shit."

Overall I give this 4 out of 5!!

M says

I'm a sucker for second person, broken families, and angry teenagers. But I'm an even bigger sucker for writing that can make you just as angry and enraged as the characters feel, and as hopeless and frustrated, too. Laura Wiess accomplished this almost every section, with Blair's mother, with Adrith's entire family, with the kids at school, and with the "boys will be boys" phrase scattered throughout.

It doesn't excuse what they do, but that's the point. That's the whole point.

Shouko says

[knowing that a friend will be raped by the
