



# Beauty and the Bridesmaid

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## **Beauty and the Bridesmaid** Lisa Souza

Could love be a nip/tuck away?

Having endured her mother's fourth wedding, hypnotized by makeover shows, and tempted by Zvengali-esque image consultant Kennedy J, über bridesmaid Dot Lindell launches into an odyssey of self improvement, plastic surgery and therapy.

Then new and improved Dot encounters former high school hottie John Miller and begins a risky deception, convincing both herself and John she's a totally different person. And maybe she can pull it off: after all she's unrecognizable.

But then John introduces Dot to his best friend - and that bully from her high school nightmares - Jack Weston. Seems Jack's changed since high school, too... he's grown dangerous.

Beauty & the Bridesmaid is a darkly comic tale of transformation and choices, frenemies and friendship, the heroic saga of a nice woman who just wants to look in a mirror and feel beautiful, but may find the price is higher than she bargained.

## **Beauty and the Bridesmaid Details**

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Author : Lisa Souza

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# From Reader Review Beauty and the Bridesmaid for online ebook

## Samantha March says

I received a review copy

When I first agreed to review the book, I looked at the cover and title and thought it would be chick lit. After reading the synopsis and my eyes catching on the “darkly comic tale” part, I was even more curious about what I would be reading. I am really glad the author added the word “darkly” because I probably would have been completely thrown off guard if not. This book touches on a lot of extremely sensitive subjects, like body-image issues, rape and suicide. Dot’s journey was very interesting yet at times hard to read about, but I commend Lisa Souza for writing a thought-provoking and very honest novel.

3.5 stars

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## Rumeur says

I'll start by saying I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway and many thanks to the author for sending me a copy :)

This IS a genuine post, I LOVED this book!! In many ways I could relate at times to exactly what was felt by the main character

I highly recommend this book for women readers for sure!! The title & the beginning of the book make the reader think it's just a book on being a bridesmaid & the awful things that go along with that "duty" but it's not really about being the bridesmaid, but the beauty!

This story is about a young woman named Dorothy Lindell AKA Dot. The book is humorous and found myself snickering out loud at times even in inappropriate places but it was comically told, although Dot has major issues we all face esp women. I believe the author calls it "darkly comical" but I think any woman reading could identify at parts and find this really very funny

Dot starts out by going & being, in 2 weddings. The first is her cousin Ginny where she's a bridesmaid & is pairs with Kennedy J, who she finds out is gay but a well distinguished "image consultant" type of a guy. They ditch their duties at the wedding to go to a gay bar where she "fits in" because they think she's a tranny. It's her first ditch at responsibility but she's having a blast. Kennedy and her agree to exchange services--- she'll help him with his computer problems & he'll work in re molding her body as his "project ". As she puts it--he has more work to do than she's going to have

The next wedding she's again a bridesmaid in her mothers wedding which isn't exactly her first marriage but since Dot shirked her responsibilities at her cousins wedding, she had to make up for it at her mothers

Dot attends regular meetings at D.A.--Dater's Anonymous!! It's a small group of about 6 ppl who many play a significant part as the book progresses. Dot has poor self esteem and has always been bullied in school for being "fat" and she loves to read Barbara Cartland romance novels & works in computer business for big computer company

She finally gets tired of her mundane boring life as it is so she calls Kennedy to come in & have him "do his

thing " & make her over. One of the funniest lines I found in the book was as he's looking at her & making suggestions from head to toe he's looking at her face & when he gets to her chin he says "chins: 1 is nice, 3's a crowd"!! That line had me in stitches, just saying!! :) he makes his suggestions & the process starts. He waives his fee since she fixed his computer but she's going to have many doctor bills etc until the process is complete

Now her transformation begins!

She meets with dermatologist for her face & gets chemical peels & facials done, she sees a nutritionist who comes to her home & clears out her fridge of most everything she was eating & replaces it with foods she should eat instead. She loses 20 pounds & is finally able to get the lipo, moderate tummy tuck, thigh re sculpturing & her nose fixed all the same day. She finds herself in a predicament when she needs to have a friend drive her home after surgery & finds she really has no friends but gets a co-worker to pick her up to take her home The co-worker that comes isn't the original person but her married co worker who eventually ditched her once she's home & she asks him to help her take off the binding wraps that r holding her together after the surgery only to discover later there was a zipper & an easy flap for going to bathroom!! She calls her stuck up cousin to come help her, she comes over to see she was set up & calls the only number she sees on a business card which is of a girl named Elvira Wentz from her DA group. Elvira is described pretty much like you imagine Elvira , except without the chest. Goth, piercings, dresses in black & white mainly so Elvira comes over to help take care of Dot. The 2 of them find out that although they look different they both have similar problems when it comes to men & dating

So the book goes on through Dot's transformation from being fat homely lonely no friend woman, to being a woman who now has made herself over & has friends. She goes from ugly duckling to swan girl. Changes everything on herself including wanting to go by her middle name of Alana

Although the book is written comically the underlying theme to me seems to be body image. She wasn't happy the way she looked and at her job but then there was Elvira who also had her share of problems but wasn't fat. They both go through transformations plus Dot gets to know one of the men in DA a lot better. She never understood why he was in the group & didn't know what he did for a living either but he seemed to have a connection with the doctor who held the DA group meetings. It's later discovered why he's there & his occupation but I don't want to give away any spoilers. There's also another guy that knows Dot, by her middle name. Alana, a little too good also which leads to a climactic ending

The end of the book flash forwards to 7 years later, telling how Dot ends up & that she looks back & sees the faces of all the friends she really has

Although written comically , the book definitely takes the reader through self image & the obsessions we have on what's on the outside rather than the inside of us, & sometimes the lengths we'll go through to change the outside So it may seem like just a funny story, but there are underlying issues with the women & secrets that come out also along the journey of changing themselves

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## Jo says

I send my thanks to Lisa Souza and Goodreads First Reads Giveaway for my copy of *Beauty and the Bridesmaid that I won in the Giveaway*.

*Beauty and the Bridesmaid* is funny. What woman doesn't want to look in the mirror and feel beautiful?

Well, after plastic surgery and other major changes, she looks like a new person and finds ironically that looks don't the person change. This humorous book about changing from an ugly duckling to a beautiful swan is fun, interesting and just a good story.

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### **Rachel Barnard says**

Nothing is going on in Dot's life. After attending her mother's fourth wedding and meeting the image consultant Kennedy J, who promises to do her for free, Dot takes the plunge. A strict exercise and diet as well as hypnotism regime turns into weight loss and plastic surgery and an entire wardrobe and personal makeover. After her transformation is complete, Dot meets Jmiller and they date. Everything seems to be going well, until John introduces Dot to his best friend, who happens to also be Dot's former high school bully.

I love makeover stories; however, for a woman to put herself through hell and back just to be 'attractive' according to societal standards does grate on the back of my mind. But this story was told as if it was reality and I'm sure there are plenty of women who feel society's pressure to be pretty and thin and who do something about it, maybe not as extreme as Dot to achieve her end result. I really did like how her transformation was complete and encompassed good living style according to nutrition and exercise and putting effort into her wardrobe.

The twist near the end caught me by surprise. No spoilers! But this twist made me pull back from liking the book as well as I was up until that point. It was a disappointing turn.

This book was humorous and Dot's perspective was told realistically and with all the details I would want with a character such as herself. I also really appreciated the full experience of going through Dot's transformation and I understood how hard and painful all the steps were according to her story, fictional though it was.

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### **Kathleen says**

In her debut novel, *Beauty and the Bridesmaid*, author Lisa Souza weaves an entertaining tale that follows Dot Lindell's transformational journey from an ugly duckling into a beautiful swan.

Dot's story is written in a dramatic style with a touch of dark humor. The reader follows Dot as she takes extreme measures to transform her external features, and become a new woman through surgery, diet, exercise, and a wardrobe makeover. But alas ... Dot's journey has its trials and tribulations, and along the way she discovers that external appearances are only superficial and can be changed, but it doesn't change the person inside, or the important relationships that she has with others, and it won't help achieve the acceptance and love that she so desperately seeks.

*Beauty and the Bridesmaid* is a story that delves into self image and societal perceptions. I loved that the author weaves a tale that intertwines humor with a serious women's issue that every woman can relate to. While I found myself laughing and cringing as I followed Dot's journey, I couldn't help but also ponder the underlying message of the issue of self image and societal perceptions. What woman hasn't been in Dot's shoes at sometime in her life? But would you go the lengths that Dot did to transform herself, when all that

really counts is the quality of your inner person?

Beauty and the Bridesmaid is a thought provoking and humorous story about one woman who faces her insecurities, and along the way finds and accepts her true self.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Chick Lit Plus Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

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### **Jane says**

Dorothy Alana Lindell decides she is willing to make major changes in her appearance after being a bridesmaid more times than she wants to count. She meets Kennedy J. the handsome, suave image consultant and commits to all the changes he suggests for her. The external changes take more than she anticipated to get used to emotionally as she comes in contact with people from her past that tormented her before her massive change. Slowly she makes new friends, faces personal tragedy and overcomes it all to reach her life goals. The book takes the reader through the painful process of her change and when she finally gets her emotional life under control the process is skipped and only the results appear in an epilogue. It was like becoming totally into her ups and downs and then skipping a good part of her story; like reading the first few chapters and skipping to the end of the book without reading the middle. *Beauty and the Bride Maid* is detailed, has wonderful character development and emotional depth.

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### **Michelle Lafayette says**

If you liked the Confessions of a Shopaholic series then you will enjoy this novel by Lisa Souza. Is love only a nip and tuck away, No. This book is about Dots transformation of her physical self and how it effects all aspects of her life. A nice, easy, witty read but there is a great message as the main character learns a lot about herself.

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### **Sharon Anderson says**

Ever the bridesmaid and never the bride, our heroine has one goal in life, to not die a virgin. Overweight and overlooked Dorothy Alana Lindell gives herself over to a leading makeover expert in Seattle. She undergoes a strict weight-loss regime in preparation for plastic surgery--liposuction, dermabrasion, and a nose job--correcting things she could not change otherwise.

But she has always had great hair.

She changes everything about herself, hoping to escape the person she was. She goes by her middle name, Alana, and even lands a gorgeous boyfriend. But some things do not change. A bully from school recognizes Dot-Alana and takes deadly action against her. This is a story about one woman's struggle to make herself 'pretty' in order to be acceptable. It's a poignant tale of how our society pressures women to place on a veneer of beauty in order to be deemed worthy of love.

Lisa Souza's debut novel is smart and sassy, astoundingly real and vibrantly heart-warming, and a mighty

fine read.

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### **Benish Khan (Queen.Beenie) says**

First Thoughts: Dorothy Alana Lindell has been overweight for a while, so she decides to undergo a transformation through proper dieting, and and plastic surgery mainly, rhinoplasty, and liposuction. She is rather insecure, so she does almost every possible change possible to herself and her her body.

Unfortunately, a bully from her school recognizes her and off the story takes off.. I did like the concept of Beauty and The Bridesmaid, it shows a woman believing in superficial beauty, but her reasoning is mainly pressure from society. A lot of people say "It's society that's ugly, not you." I beg to differ though, because we mainly all belong to ONE whole dominant community/society though, later, we develop sub-groups of ethnicity, race, sports, etc. Okay enough of my sociology lecture, moving on..

Characterization: Many readers can understand Dot and even relate to her, her struggles are similar to how people like you and I might think as well. No matter how much confidence humans can achieve, there will always be some insecurities we might have. I liked Dot's character and her obsession with her physical appearance was fascinating to read about. I don't believe she mainly wanted to be pretty, but rather she wanted to be more accepted in society, since "skinny" is more accepted. The romance is decent overall, but it was mainly a miss for me - I liked the focus better solely on the female lead. I liked that Dot faced her fears - it's an admirable trait.

Plot: I liked that it's a humorous novel.. for the most part. There is "dark humor" in there as well which I didn't like too much though - It's basically a story of the "ugly ducking" turned into the beautiful swan. Beauty and the Bridesmaid did have a couple of grammatical errors which made me cringe, although, I liked that this is a woman's POV who just wants to "fit in." I loved reading about her transformation, for some reason, I like reading about those - it's amazing how people can change overnight. This did remind me of a similar Korean movie called 200 Pound Beauty. Beauty and The Bridesmaid is a light, and fun read. This is a debut novel, and I do appreciate that it is well done so I would rate it 3 stars.

Recommended for fans of 200 Pound Beauty, Confessions of a Shopaholic, and Jemima J.

Source: Review Copy was sent free of charge via CBB Promotions.

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### **Reeca Elliott says**

Dorothy decides to change her life. She is an overweight and sort of dowdy woman and she refuses to live like that anymore. She changes her appearance so much that her family even has trouble recognizing her. This story has more to it than just a change of appearance. It is about changing ones feelings about oneself. Dorothy needed to do something about her self worth and she did. Even though this tale is written comically, it has some important points that everyone needs to hear.

This is a smart, charming read!!

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## **Jean says**

I highly recommend this book for women!! The title & the beginning of the book make the reader think it's just a book on being a bridesmaid & the awful things that go along with that "duty" but it's not really about being the bridesmaid, but the beauty within!

This story is about a young woman named Dorothy Lindell AKA Dot. The book is humorous and I found myself laughing out loud at times on the subway because it was comically written. Dot has major issues all women face. We do not all go to the lengths that she did to change though.

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