



This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness

By Laura Munson

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Laura Munson's essay in the *New York Times*, about the time she was tested in a way she never anticipated, created a firestorm-now here's the whole story.

When Laura Munson's essay was published, *The New York Times* was so flooded with responses that they had to close down the comment feature. Readers wrote in saying that they had sent the column to all of their friends. Therapists wrote Munson to tell her that they were passing it out to their clients.

What did Munson write that caused such a fervor?

Laura detailed what happened when her husband of more than twenty years told her he wasn't sure he loved her anymore and wanted to move out. And while you might think you know where this story is going, this isn't the story you think it is. Laura's response to her husband: I don't buy it.

In this poignant, wise, and often funny memoir, Munson recounts a period of months in which her faith in herself-and her marriage-was put to the test. Shaken to the core after the death of her beloved father, not finding the professional success that she had hoped for, and after countless hours of therapy, Laura finally, at age forty, realized she had to stop basing her happiness on things outside her control and commit herself to an "End of Suffering." *This Is Not The Story You Think It Is...* chronicles a woman coming to terms with the myths we tell ourselves-and others-about our life and realizing that ultimately happiness is completely within our control.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A kind of colloquial diary composed during the rocky summer her husband was suffering a midlife crisis, debut author Munson aims to convince the reader, in her chatty, self-absorbed narrative, that her hard-won serenity helped conquer her husband's shakiness at committing himself to their future together. When her husband (who remains nameless) announced his uncertainty that he loved her, then embarked on bizarrely atypical behavior, leaving her and their two children, eight and 12, wondering where he was, Munson had her own notions about what was ailing him, reinforced by mountains of self-help books and therapists: his job was failing, he was drowning in debt, and he was worried about losing their fabulous 20-acre horse-and-ski farm in rural Montana. Munson hoped he could regain a sense of gratitude for what they had, namely 15 years of a loving family. Munson urged her husband to take a trip, as she had just returned from a month-long rejuvenating stint to Italy, or even helicopter lessons, yet his resentment of her ran deeper than she cared to confront. She concentrated on what she could control, namely creating a nice home and throwing herself into community activism, then witnessed with joy her husband's gradual coming around. Unfortunately, Munson's journey doesn't ring entirely convincing or forthright, and if the title truly reflected her marital crisis, the reader might run the other way. (Apr.)

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Review

"Laura Munson takes the spiritual stuff and the personal stuff and the love stuff and the pain stuff and she brews them all together in a very fun and touching memoir. I'm a fan. This is a wonderful book."

-Marianne Williamson

"*This Is Not the Story You Think It Is* is true to its title. The book took me by surprise. I read it in one sitting and loved Munson's tone, wit, wisdom and writing."

-Anita Shreve

"Let me tell you what this book is about. This is a book about saying yes. It's the story of Laura Munson's alchemical ability to create abundance and bounty in the face of scarcity and abandonment-no small triumph. Filled with gems big and small. . . Munson is a wonderful guide-wise, brave, and tenaciously honest."

-Melanie Gideon, author of *The Slippery Year: A Meditation on Happily Ever After*

"This book is fabulous. Laura Munson's noble quest to become the source of her own happiness will take you by the hand and heart as it guides you through the steps to living a life without suffering. Her story pulls back the curtain on the only magic we ever need to know: how to make the shift from fear to love."

-Arielle Ford, author of *The Soulmate Secret*

"Laura Munson's powerful and buoyant book gives us wisdom in generous slices. But it is Munson's abilities as a storyteller that show us how to discover-how to find and feel-the real wisdom that may arise from our lives, as messy and heartbreaking as they may be. Woman, wife, mother, neighbor-this fine writer converts her own life's journeys into a series of vignettes so focused and compelling, so heartbreaking, sometimes so funny, that they resound with the force of parables."

-David Baker, poetry editor of "The Kenyon Review"

"Laura Munson has served up a whopping portion of sanity. This book has the potential to start a cultural

revolution."

-Leif Peterson, author of *Catherine Wheels* and *Normal Like Us*

"I loved this book. It's unusual, memorable and wry, laugh-out-loud funny too."

-Leslie Morgan Steiner, author of *Crazy Love* and *Mommy Wars*

About the Author

Laura Munson lives with her family in Montana, where she writes novels, memoirs, short stories, and essays. This is her first published book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carl White:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want experience happy read one together with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness is kind of guide which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Ashley Paul:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness, you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Anna Williams:

Reading a book being new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness offer you a new experience in reading a book.

Ryan Donahue:

As we know that book is important thing to add our information for everything. By a publication we can know everything we wish. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This publication *This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness* was filled with regards to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has different feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book you wanted.

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