



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:

Pamela Edmonds:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As we know that book is very important usually. The book *This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness* seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The book *This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship while using book *This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness*. You never feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Michael Davis:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some study before they write to the book. One of them is this *This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness*.

Judith Robinson:

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Phyllis Wilder:

A lot of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a book. They are directly felt that when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the book This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness to make your own reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading ability is developing when you like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the feeling about book and reading through especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the publication This Is Not The Story You Think It Is: A Season of Unlikely Happiness can to be your friend when you're feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of the time.

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