

Such a Pretty Girl

MTV Books/Simon & Schuster
ISBN 978 1416521839

by Laura Wiess



Laura Wiess is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Such a Pretty Girl*, chosen by the American Library Association as one of the Best Books for Young Adults and by YALSA as a Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers, *Leftovers*, and *How It Ends*. Her new novel *Ordinary Beauty* will be released on June 14th, 2011.

Contact

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This is the first book in a very long time that made me say,
"Wish I'd written this."

– Ellen Hopkins, NYT bestselling author of *Fallout*

About the Book

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 others in their small town, has been released on good behavior. He was supposed to be locked up until Meredith's eighteenth birthday, when she could legally be free of both 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* captures a young woman's painful fight for survival and her journey back to herself.

Reviews

Brilliance comes in a small package. *Such a Pretty Girl* is deep and ravishing, dark and true.

In the character of Meredith, Laura Wiess has created a girl to walk alongside Harper Lee's Scout and J.D. Salinger's Phoebe. Read this novel and you will be changed forever.

– Luanne Rice, NYT bestselling author of *What Matters Most*

A gritty, terrifying novel about a father's abuse of power and trust... A page turner that ultimately sends a startling message of empowerment.... Extremely satisfying.

-- Booklist

Tough, darkly humorous yet achingly vulnerable... A nail biter of an ending.

– Kirkus Reviews, starred review.

Spellbinding tale... We need more characters like Meredith and more authors like Wiess to spin them into heartbreaking, enchanting heroines.

– Teen Voices

Strikes just the right balance between hope and despair, and Meredith's will to survive and ability to take action in the face of her terror are an inspiration. -- KLIATT

How It Ends

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A lifelong animal lover, Laura lives in the woods in Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains region. She advocates spay/neuter, maintains a small TNR semi-feral cat community, and enjoys a respectful, if occasionally hair-raising co-existence with the deer, porcupines, coyotes, rattlesnakes and bears living around her.

www.laurawiess.com

I don't think I have loved a book as much as this one in a long time.
My whole heart went into this book
and didn't fully come back until well after the last page.

– Reading is Bliss

About the Book

All Hanna's wanted since sophomore year is Seth. She's gone out with other guys, even gained a rep for being a flirt, all the while hoping cool, guitar-playing Seth will choose her. Then she gets him – but their relationship is hurtful, stormy and critical, not at all what Hanna thinks a perfect love should be.

Bewildered by Seth's treatment of her and in need of understanding, Hanna decides to fulfill her school's community

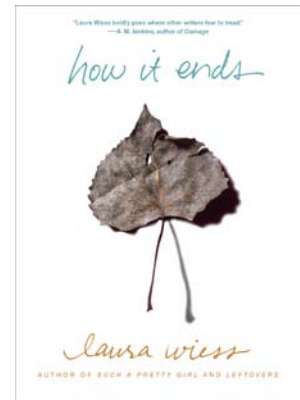
service requirement by spending time with Helen, her terminally ill neighbor, who she's turned to for comfort and wisdom throughout her life. But illness has changed Helen into someone Hanna hardly knows, and her home is not the refuge it once was.

Feeling more alone than ever, Hanna gets drawn into an audio book the older woman is listening to, a fierce, unsettling love story of passion, sacrifice and devotion.

Hanna's fascinated by the idea that such all-encompassing love

can truly exist, and without even realizing it, the story begins to change her.

Until the day when the story becomes all too real...and Hanna's world is spun off its axis by its shattering irrevocable conclusion.



Reviews

Reading this elegantly written novel is like looking through a kaleidoscope with a different picture in every chapter... A profound generational love story that will stay with you long after you discover *How It Ends*. -Metroreader

Amazingly well-written... Had me in tears more than I would like to admit.
– My Book Views

Just blew me away... If you haven't read any of Laura Wiess's books, this one is the perfect place to start.

-- Katie's Book Blog

A unique coming of age tale that explores some of the most fundamental human bonds.

– Book Soulmates

If you can only read one more book this year – make it this one.

– Books and Needlepoint

I am still reeling from the way this story turned out. You won't be able to put it down until you get to that last page. You are just left open-mouthed and in awe by it. -- Bookwormy Girl

Enter a world where love past and present combine to change Hanna's life forever. Highly recommend.

– Blog Business World

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About the Author



photo by Paul Pinaha

Appearance Schedule

May 14th, 2011
Millbrook Book
Festival
Millbrook, NY

June 12th, 2011
A Novel Way to Help
the SPCA
Chester County SPCA
Annual Forget-Me-Not
Gala
Marsh Valley Farm
Downingtown, PA

June 25th, 2011
Barnes & Noble
Wilkes-Barre, PA

June 28th, 2011
Bradford County
Library
Troy, PA

July 1, 2011
Barnes & Noble
East Brunswick, NJ

"Laura Wiess boldly goes where other writers fear to tread."

-- A.M. Jenkins, author of *Night Road*

Laura Wiess is the author of the critically acclaimed Simon & Schuster novels *Such a Pretty Girl*, *Leftovers*, and *How It Ends*. *Such a Pretty Girl* was chosen by the American Library Association as one of the 2008 Best Books for Young Adults and by YALSA as a 2008 Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers.

Exploring issues such as sexual abuse, addiction, loss, neglect, abandonment and betrayal, she writes about young adults caught in desperate conditions, determined to survive their environments.

"Such a Pretty Girl is deep and ravishing, dark and true. In the character of Meredith, Laura Wiess has created a girl to walk alongside Harper Lee's Scout and J.D. Salinger's Phoebe. Read this novel and you will be changed forever."

-- Luanne Rice, NYT bestselling author of *What Matters Most*

Born and raised in Milltown, New Jersey, Laura followed her passion for land to a charming stone cottage in the woods of Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains region.

A lifelong animal lover, she is a spay/neuter advocate, maintains a small TNR semi-feral cat community, and enjoys a respectful if occasionally hair-raising co-existence with the deer, porcupines, coyotes, hawks, rattlesnakes and bears living around her.

Laura's new novel, *Ordinary Beauty*, the story of a young woman's struggle to escape the shadow of her mother's addiction and neglect will be released June 14, 2011.

by Laura Wiess



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About the Book

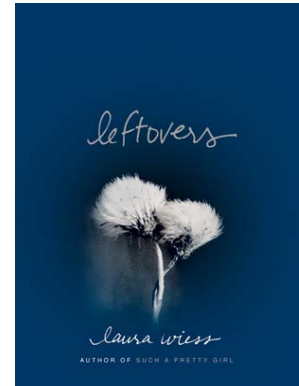
Blair and Ardith are best friends who have committed an unforgivable act in the name of love and justice.

But in order to understand what could drive two young women to such extreme measures, first you 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?

Reviews

The climax is explosive but it's the feisty heroines who will resonate more. Gritty drama from Wiess that will get parents and teens talking.

– Kirkus Reviews

Dramatic and disturbing... A captivating book that will keep you turning the pages.

-- Teens Read Too

A riveting story about how far girls will go to protect that which is good and decent in their lives. A bracing, unapologetic and thoroughly compelling read. I love this book.

-- Laura Fitzgerald, national bestselling author of *One True Theory of Love*

As powerful and poignant as *Such a Pretty Girl*.

-- Shon Bacon, *SD Girl*

Wiess's suspense story delivers an outside jolt of adrenaline... Wiess's clear insight of the evolution of victim into perpetrator and her layered storytelling bump up the subject to a much more challenging playing field.

– Publishers Weekly

You won't be able to put *Leftovers* down until you finish it.

-- BookLoons

Ordinary Beauty

MTV Books/Simon & Schuster

ISBN 978 1439193969

Release Date: June 14, 2011

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About the Book

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. 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?

Pre-Pub Reviews

Laura Wiess has done it again. ...a startlingly honest novel....a breathtaking, haunting, amazing story.

-- Lost in Y.A.
Wonderland

A beautiful story... there is nothing ordinary about Sayre or her heartbreaking story of hardship and strength.

-- Bayshore Books

Magnificent, brilliant, honest and real. A tragic masterpiece speckled with hope. Loved every word that was written.

-- Bewitched Bookworms

Sayre Bellavia is a keeper. *Ordinary Beauty* is a wonderful story, full of grit and reality and hard times and hope.

-- Bookin' It

Suspenseful. I couldn't sleep until I finished.

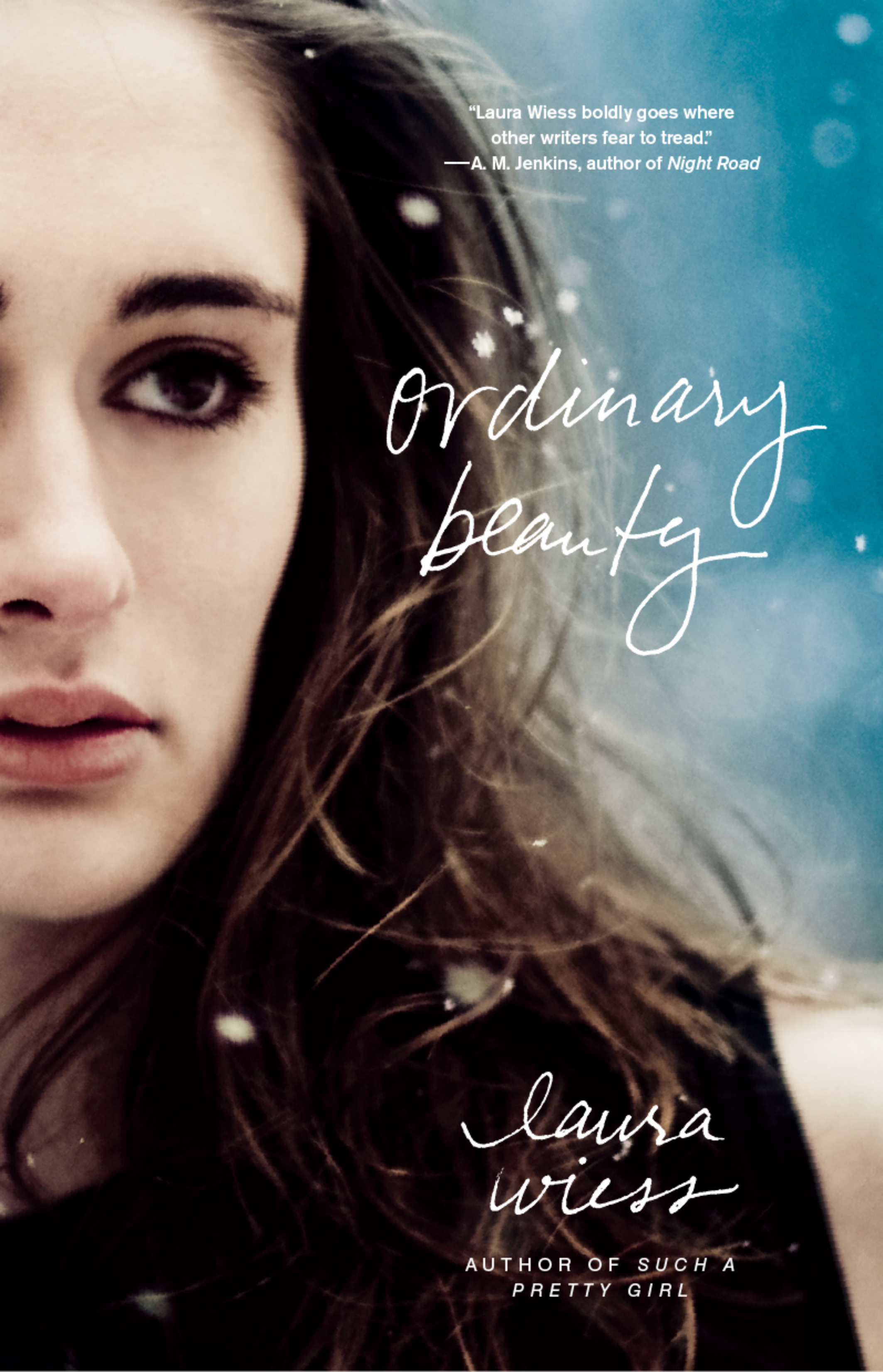
This is the second time a Laura Wiess novel has made me cry.

Incredible writing.
Incredible characters.
Incredible story.

...one of the summer's best reads.

This is one novel you do not want to miss.

-- Alexandra Cook,
Facebook Review



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Ordinary
beauty

Laura
Wiess

AUTHOR OF SUCH A
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