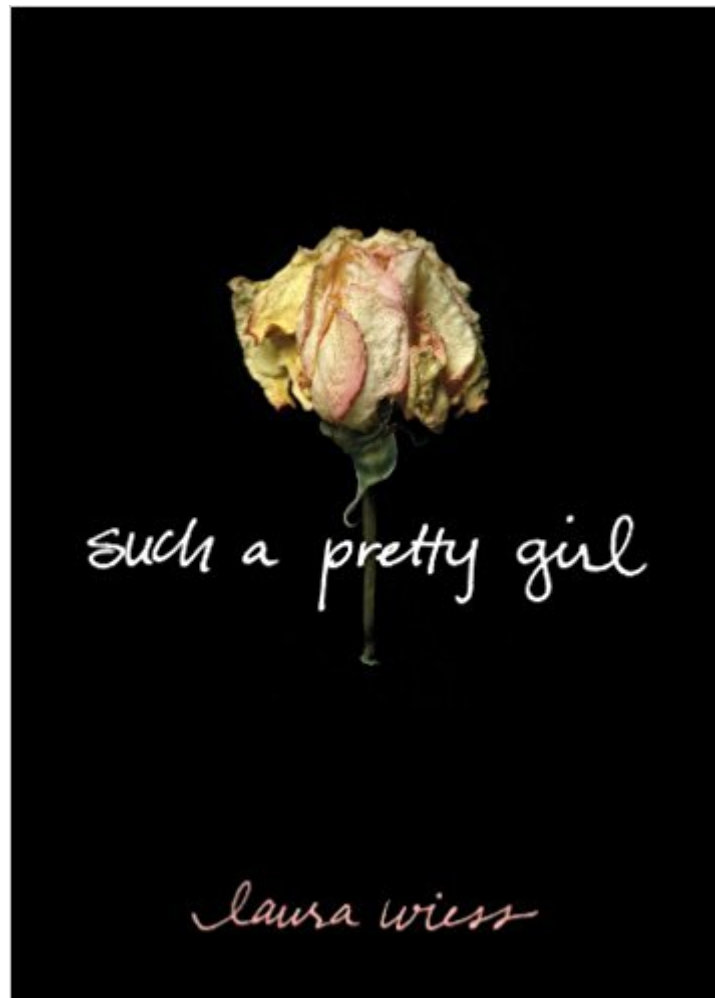




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Such A Pretty Girl



Synopsis

A darkly compelling novel about a young woman who must defend herself against her abusive father. 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 (New York Times bestselling author Luanne Rice). They promised Meredith nine years of safety, but only gave her three. Her father was supposed to be locked up until Meredith turned eighteen. She thought she had time to grow up, get out, and start a new life. But Meredith is only fifteen, and today her father is coming home from prison. Today her time has run out.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With her father imprisoned, 15-year-old Meredith thinks she could live out her high-school days safely, but when he is released early for good behavior, her security is shattered. A popular youth baseball coach, her father has abused Mer as well as other boys and girls. With strict orders that he not be left alone with his daughter, he is returned to the condo complex where she and her mother live. In contrast to Mer's terror, her mother is giddy with delight at his return, and together the reunited couple plans to conceive another child. Yet in the shadows and stillness, Mer's nightmare begins anew. This is a gritty, terrifying novel about a father's abuse of power and trust, and the way two different teens, Meredith and her paraplegic friend, Andy, deal with that reality. Although not explicit, the novel is honest in its telling. Admittedly sensational, Wiess' story is a page-turner that ultimately sends a startling message of empowerment that, while improbable, is extremely

satisfying. Frances Bradburn Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"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, New York Times bestselling author "Such a Pretty Girl hooked me on page one and Laura Wiess's masterful prose kept me turning the pages. This is the first book in a very long time that made me say, 'Wish I'd written this.'" -- Ellen Hopkins, bestselling author of Crank "Beautifully written and painfully real. Laura Wiess has crafted a gripping story that is heart-rending -- and important, with a capital 'I'." -- Barbara Delinsky, New York Times bestselling author of Flirting with Pete

This was such a great book. My only complaint is that it wasn't longer. I finished it so fast but I loved it so much. It shows the whole fight or flight idea too. I think it's an important thing to put in the book because you have one girl who's willing to fight and try to stand up for herself and then a boy who's trying to run from it. He's frightened. Those are both reactions that people face and I felt like it was needed.

The title says it all. I was really disappointed by this story. Some parts seemed really unrealistic and the interesting parts had little to no detail. She talked about the incident in short flashbacks which I liked but only focused on the present. She didn't give much of a story and rushed through scenes that needed more detail. I felt like this story didn't live up to its amazing reviews and high praises. I wouldn't bother with this one.

This book is so well written. I could not put it down. I plan on reading more from this author. It is worth purchasing.

This book was ehh. I'm happy I didn't pay 10 dollars just to read a predictable book. I got it for 1.99. I hated the ending..The story was very interesting but at the same time boring. I hated everyone in the book like another review has stated. I hated Andy, his mother, Meredith mother and of course the dad. The grandmother was okay and so was the retired police officer . This book could of had a better ending. I feel for Meredith but at the same time why is she with a 19 year old?? When she's 15. She even stated in the book she didn't want to be like her mother and father who were 4 years apart. The book could explain more about the abuse and less about region.

This, to me, was your typical story of a girl who was done incredibly wrong. I was given this book, and didn't really know what it was about before hand, or honestly, I probably wouldn't have read it.

Very well done, heartfelt, and satisfying ending. The subject matter tears me up, but I feel this is an important book and one that can offer hope to readers.

Read more:[...]I picked this book up on a whim during my "let's read about serious scary issues" kick. recommended it to people buying *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher. So I gave it a chance, and I'm glad I did. Meredith breaks off every page with a strong voice that makes her feel instantly alive and present. We live her horrors through her current actions and snippets of memory, which are weaved together in a truly clever way to show the continuation between past and present, and future. Her writing is poetic sometimes, other times fiery and emotional. The side characters are all well fleshed out and believable. My main issue with this book was its shortness; the plot picks up quick and you're thrown through a whirlwind in just a short amount of days. It feels a little too fast. However, the story really stuck with me and I highly recommend it.

plot . 5/5We begin where Meredith's father's prison sentence ends. Relationships have already been formed. A ton has already happened. Meredith is already in love with Andy, cared for by the old cop down the road, resented by her mother. There's a lot of baggage to dive into when you start. It makes it a little overwhelming, but in a good way. You pick up the past while you read through snippets of memories. It's a great way of seeing exactly how the past has affected Meredith's present, moment by moment. My only snipe is that it goes quick. As soon as Meredith's father returns, he's back to his old tricks. I was hoping for something a little more slow-moving and sinister, I guess.

concept . 5/5You see a lot of media around the offense. The initial victimization. The process of catching the criminal. Well, what happens when the criminal doesn't stay caught? Here we get the story of the aftermath. How the victims deal when their tormentor is back on the streets and back in their lives. It's a forgotten part of the puzzle and Weiss deals with it in a way that's neither exploitative nor histrionic. It's something that could happen in any case like this, and starting a story at this point is a fresh idea.

characters . 5/5They're really the strongest part of this book, besides maybe style. Meredith is strong despite her broken mind. She puts herself through hell to stop her father from hurting more children, even though she aches to run. She struggles with trusting others in an environment where her father has raped her and her mother is blind and blaming. You see the aftereffects of her torture in her obsession with numbers, in her quirks and observations. But she's

more than her past, too. Honestly, I wish I could read more about her. The side characters were just as interesting and multifaceted. There's Andy, her fellow victim and boyfriend who struggles with his own torment and paralysis. Andy's mom, the religious devotee who has given her life and looks to revenge. The cop, who helps Meredith take matters into her own hands. The mother who blames her daughter for stealing her husband's love. You feel like you've been dropped into someone's real hell, not a book.

style . 5/5 Adore adore adore. Weiss has a lot of literary flair. Her narrative is in Meredith's voice, first person, and structured around two main things: memories and numbers, both of which define Meredith's life. This means that it gets a little philosophical, but you also get to see exactly how the rape has changed Meredith's perspective on living. It's also present tense. Which I usually hate. Only I almost forgot that, thinking back, because it was so fluid and well-written that it never bothered me. In fact, it made her story seem even more present and real. There is some beautiful language here, and very thought-provoking observations about life, God, faith, and cruelty.

mechanics . 5/5 The switch between memories and present scenes was genius. Sometimes they'd flow into each other, with the last line of the memory continuing into the first line of the present. It made it so clear how much the past has shaped Meredith's present in such a concrete way. Love!

take home message A striking account of the aftermath of abuse, and one victim's quest to become more than a victim.

SUCH A PRETTY GIRL is engrossing. The writing is powerful. Laura Weiss has an undeniable talent for effortlessly weaving words together. The subject itself is frightening, but not overtly graphic. It's like a scene from a nightmare - running in vain from the villain you know will get you. It is gripping, and impossible to put down. The only problem I had with the story was Meredith's self-sacrifice, and a retired cop encouraging her to go through with it. Self-defense, I can understand, but I have never met anyone that would willingly go through rape once let alone AGAIN. Is it some sort of twisted bravery? I don't know. I've never heard of such behavior, so it's hard to judge. As for the character of Meredith's mother, she is nearly as terrible as her father, neglecting her daughter in a selfish pursuit for a love that vanished since she lost her childlike form. I'm sure many will think Meredith's mother to be unrealistic. What kind of mother would turn her back on her children when they are in obvious danger? The answer: too many. I personally knew two boys who were in a home of physical abuse at the hand of their father. Their mother turned her back, and her oldest son entered foster care with a black eye. When they went back to her, she sent him to a reformatory group for boys because she didn't want to deal with him. Children suffer so many injustices, and yet it is not discussed or handled in the way it should be. Rape is a joke to most high

school kids. I hear it everyday in the hallways, "Don't rape me!" or "Stop abusing me!" Rape, abuse, none of it is a joke. Appropriate punishments need to be doled out to these predators. Ignoring the problem is sending the message that these terrible acts are not so terrible. Now THAT is making a mockery of abuse victims.

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