



Disposition of Remains

Laura T. Emery

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Stacia Altman has just received some terrible news. Life-altering news. In fact, life-ending news. She was just diagnosed with a terminal disease. Worse yet, she's not sure if her death will matter to anyone-including herself. Once an adventurous young girl with a passion for art history, Stacia has somehow evolved into a sarcastic and listless 38-year-old wife of an ultra-controlling husband-a process she didn't even realize was taking place until it was too late. Instead of lying down on the tracks and waiting for a train to run her over, Stacia decides to abandon the societal role she has played, in order to piece together whatever shreds of her life she can, before it's too late. While fighting her way through the stages of grieving, Stacia finds great friends, love, and most importantly, humor. As she travels the globe solving the mystery of her life and coming to terms with her inevitable death, she ultimately discovers that the end might just be the beginning...of a greater adventure. Follow Stacia on her journey of spiritual awakening, physical pleasure, and discovery of self-a tale told from within her urn.

Disposition of Remains Details

Date : Published April 21st 2013 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform (first published April 20th 2013)

ISBN : 9781484184301

Author : Laura T. Emery

Format : Paperback 354 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Contemporary, Spirituality, Action

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From Reader Review Disposition of Remains for online ebook

Grace Risata says

I have two words. Absolutely Amazing!

Let me first say that the cover does NOT do the book justice! I was expecting something renaissance-ish and that is NOT what it's about. It's an epic tale spanning several continents that takes the reader on a masterful journey.

--I loved the character development and how each person in the book had their own voice. They were truly three dimensional and you understand their motivations and sympathize with them.

--I loved the detailed descriptions of each city (Vegas, Florence, Africa) and how the main character saw so much in each place.

--I loved how everything was interconnected and each person made an influence on the reader.

--I liked how it was written so it really grabbed my attention and I could see the story playing out in my head like I was watching a movie. This is the mark of a good book for me...when I can visualize it.

It was truly an epic tale and I could tell the author put a lot of time and heart and soul into writing the book. I honestly went into it with the thought of, "Let's give this a try, but I probably won't like it." I started reading, liked it, and continued to like it through the whole thing. Yes, I DID cry at the end. The author is talented and wrote a great book. I will definitely be reading more by her!

Denise Sherman says

The Beauty of Love

For anybody who has a love for the beauty of a story this is definitely for you. Laura T. Emery has expressed beauty, love, and a multitude of passion in one book. It will make you admire art, the beauty of the wilderness and wonderful strength of friends.

When Anastasia "Stasia" to her friends is told that she has Cancer she has a total melt down because it was 17 years after her mother had died from Cancer. The man that she is to is a total control freak so one day she decides to leave him and never return...

Stasia meets the most amazing people and goes on the most amazing adventure.. if you want to know more you will have to read this amazing book... Be warned... You will fall in love with all of the people that Stasia meets...

Holly says

Beautifully researched, beautifully written! The Epitome of an amazing and well put together book! Has something for everyone...love, adventure, mystery, medicine! I love how Laura incorporated her love for art history and travel into her novel. Felt like I was traveling from place to place with the main character, and seeing everything through her eyes! Highly recommended book!

Anastasia Riebs says

I LOVE THIS BOOK.

I'm usually reading several books at a time (a bit like channel surfing) but I started reading it last night, and its been all I can do to keep from slacking all day and keep my nose in *Disposition of Remains*. THANK GOD the weekend is coming up and its a satisfying 384 pages!"

As a survivor of domestic abuse; so much of the anger Laura T Emery's character, Stacia, carries (the need for closure of the fragmented pieces of her life BEFORE her marriage) is redolent of my own fury at my life being stolen from me; the feeling of being hijacked. In all probability, I had an equal measure of anger turned inward for not loving myself... PROTECTING myself from allowing so many years of my potential to waste away in a toxic relationship. The integrity of Emery's writing does not end at accurate historical and cultural descriptions, but depicts with unabashed honesty the complex myriad of emotions involved with judging one's self. In writing *Disposition of Remains*, author Laura T Emery wrote in circles around herself; the book was rife with subtle recurring themes, bringing warmth and depth to the story and development of its characters.

As awareness of her mortality blooms, Stacia begins the process of giving birth to herself, even as her death is drawing near. Her conviction, "I have to become someone different than I have been" marks the beginning of the repeated theme as she labors to belong, truly, to herself.

A physical copy of this book was provided by the publisher or author for purposes of review.

Ember Leigh says

An immersive, detailed, and completely beautiful tale of a woman's late-in-life awakening, stemming from a toxic cocktail of her controlling husband and a fatal cancer diagnosis. Ms. Emery writes about so many themes and parts of the world with such authority and detail that it's hard not to get swept up in this life-changing journey with so many heartfelt and important thoughts about a life well-lived.

Teresa Garcia says

Excellent book with Excellent characters. I fell in love with Stacia and her story! There is no cliff hangers and you feel a sense of completion at the end. This book is a Fantastic read. I would recommend it to all who love to read.

Jim Vivinetto says

A spiritual, loving, lifesaver gift to read!!!

As a cancer victim this author and her loving story has given me faith and hope for my future and beyond.
God Bless to her and her readers!

Chris says

Received the book free through offer on Goodreads. I usually read heavier subjects or YA but occasionally pick up a contemporary fiction/romance. That said, it was an okay story but didn't care for the ending as she squashed so much time in the last couple of chapters. It was rewarding to see Stacia grow in her self-esteem and put gusto and purpose into her life after believing she as ovarian cancer. She grows in strength, visiting old friends and developing new relationships that do nothing but joy in her life. It almost seems Emery is stuffing too much into her book in having Stacia do so many spur-of-the-moment activities. Anything more would give away the ending. A solid read.

Boyko Ovcharov says

Disposition of a new beginning!

Excellent prose, full of culture, emotional adventures and psychological quests. The author provides invaluable insights into a soul of a delicate but suffering lady that travels across countries and various spiritual dimensions alike.

Cassandra. says

OMGosh!! I am on page 200, & I do not want to put down the book. Laura Emery has managed to write a book that contains every yummy element I look for in a Good Read - fantastic character development, laugh out loud dialog, a bit of my stomping grounds (i.e. the southwest), history, travel, personal introspection & personal discovery, etc., etc. I received this from First Reads - thank you!

From CA, to Las Vegas, to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, to Italy, to Africa - & back! Quirky, funny, sad, wonderful read.

Favorite lines: "If you find yourself on the wrong side of someone else's logical equation enough times, you start to actually believe that you are the illogical one. The illogical becomes the norm & self-preservation, a monumental priority." "I would rather seek enlightenment from strangers than sit around & be dictated to by a man who has his head so far up his ass he needs a periscope to watch television."

The references to children's literature/movies were so funny. When Stacia meets Wilbur all she can think of is the pig in Charlotte's Web, altho' he is certainly no pig! She receives a message from Mustafa while watching The Lion King. "How sad that an animated lion was wiser than I. I liked the idea that I could serve some purpose in my death, even if it were just to become fertilizer."

The description of vomiting as an "Exorcist moment", & the description of a fellow member of the safari, ". . . clad in a pair of skin-tight jeans, proving it is possible to simultaneously have muffin top & camel toe."

Comparing the lions devouring their prey as "resembling Winnie the Pooh relishing his pot of honey - except in a savage, National Geographic-style manner."

Robert Cohen says

For the first 25 or 30 pages of this book, I was a bit concerned as I thought this was going to be another clichéd bucket list story.

Then a funny thing happened. I fell in love with the main character, Stacia. She suffers from all the fears and ambivalences that the rest of us non-imminently dying folks do. There is absolutely nothing the least bit sappy about her journey. She tells no one that she is dying, and almost no one finds out. She is determined to leave her bad marriage behind, but it won't stay there. It invades her mind when she least wants it there. She finds joy in both the least likely places and the most likely places. She dives headlong into activities that would have previously terrified her: She engages deeply with nature, a man, a nun, the wife of her long lost love, Botticelli, etc. (I don't want to put in any spoilers). This is a complex woman who alternates between anger and happiness, and every emotion in between.

I kept hoping that something would happen to change the inevitable ending. I did not want this woman to die. She has SO much more living to do.

The 4 stars instead of 5 are because the quality of the writing is not top shelf. This is no Madame Bovary. However, the plot and character development more than make up for the pedestrian prose.

Lashon Brown says

I loved it.

I loved this book, it took me a couple of days to finish it. Because I have twins, but when I did read some I couldn't put it down. Have to find some more books by the author.

Melissa says

Very enjoyable read. A moving adventure with a touching conclusion.

I won this book through Goodreads First Reads.

D.A. Henneman says

I was pleasantly surprised to see a topic that most shy away from, examined in such a unique and beautiful way. The stages of grief affect us all at one point or another and are handled in a variety of ways. The author's description of the stages from a young woman's viewpoint, as she desperately tries to regain balance in her life (after finding out she has terminal cancer), is poignant and heartfelt. As we follow Stacia through her travels, after leaving the husband she should have never married, the connections to her past are impossible to ignore. She must face the past in order to come to terms with her future, however short it might be.

Her journey, takes us to exotic locations, spiritual havens and to the heart of sin city, all the while painting an inspiring picture of her surrounding landscape. This book managed to touch me, surprise me, and make me cry, all things I feel are a sign of an excellent writer. I very much look forward to the next book in the series and more from this author!

Gary Dorion says

Disposition of Remains (Book One in the Remains Series) (Kindle Edition)

An unsolicited review - 5 stars - by Gary L. Dorion, author, book reviewer and former New York City Teacher of English, History and Journalism.

Right away, I liked the cover and found the title intriguing so I decided to check the book out. I seldom read what had appeared to be a romance novel but this one held my interest from the first page.

After several pages I at first was a little annoyed because I wanted to finish the book in one sitting and so had to rearrange my schedule. I get so busy that I rarely have time to read a novel that I hadn't planned to review. But then I had a delicious thought: Why not take the whole day off for a change and relax with a nice book on a beautiful sunny day here in my studio in Rawai Beach, Thailand, without any other care. Not an easy thing for me to do but that's what I did. It took me two days to finish. Even in what some people call paradise, it's still easy to fill up your day with all sorts of stress-inducing chores many of which are related to book writing and marketing and keeping up with self-imposed social media responsibilities. It was nice to just lose all that for while.

A synopsis: The main character makes the leap to leave her controlling husband after she gets a fearsome diagnosis. After years of being something of trophy wife, she finally decides that she is going to live her life on her own terms. This decision - tough as it was and coming amid a major life crisis - starts her down the path to spiritual awakening. Although I initially characterized it as a romance novel, the book defies categorization. The plot is so much more about self-realization and awareness and the character's spiritual growth is a defining aspect of the novel.

If you are looking for a rewarding, highly interesting, original book, don't miss this one! Laura Emery has a special talent as a writer. You'll be glad you gave it a shot!
