

Dragons of the Pyramid Book Reviews

Reviews of the greatest science fiction, fantasy and military history books. Tap into the wisdom of the Dragons of the Pyramid.

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Gathering Roses by Ellen Weisberg

From the press release:

The Finding of One Lost Soul

In author Ellen Weisberg's new book *Gathering Roses*, Lori Solomon is a little bit of every woman who has ever lived. Driven, neurotic, intelligent, insecure, talented...tainted. For Lori, while college itself is proving to be relatively easy if not boring, she is having a harder time salvaging her soul from the emotional ravages of high school. A co-ed successfully majoring in science, in a relationship with a good man that loves her, and supported by two friends that understand her to the core, on the surface, Lori has it all. Still, no matter how she tries, she can't shake the loneliness and feelings of unworthiness that were years in the making. A summer internship at a local radio station and the appearance of the rebellious, aloof, sexually charged and emotionally challenged Nick in her life suddenly has Lori questioning all that defines her.

Drawn to friendships with cynical, substance-abusing Rutherford Gimby and neurotic, melodramatic Angela Allen, whose faults and vices mirror Lori's own shortcomings, together, the three of them share a need and dependency on something outside of themselves, something unattainable. For Lori and Angela, low self-esteem and a poor self-image attract each to challenging and walled-off souls like Nick and Rutherford. For the men, sex, alcohol, and drugs color their past and present, keeping the barriers surrounding them solid and impervious to real emotional attachment. Yet each of them struggles with a deep-seeded need to fill the soul with a meaning that contradicts the somewhat dehumanizing influences that a fast-paced, over-privileged modern society has had on them.

Despite knowledge of a precarious health condition that Nick is afflicted with, his push-pull, emotionally nonchalant way of dealing with her is emotionally traumatic and impossible for Lori to understand. Her own demons blind her to the recognition that Nick's fear of his own mortality fuels his choices as she internalizes his behavior as a kind of subtle rejection.

It is through her tumultuous relationships with Rutherford and Angela and through her increasingly desperate attempts to win Nick, that Lori slowly achieves a growing awareness and acceptance of who she is and what she wants out of life. Her hard-earned

wisdom brings with it an acknowledgement that whether they have come for a reason or simply for a season, every relationship is life altering. Knowing Nick has allowed Lori to look at her life differently. Knowing Nick has allowed her to look at life itself differently. Available through: Chipmunkpublishing, Amazon.com, and Everywhere Fine Books are Sold

About the Author

Ellen Weisberg has a BA in psychology and biology and an MS and PhD in pharmacology. She has published poetry and a short story fantasy, and has two children's geography books in press that she co-wrote and illustrated with her husband. Gathering Roses is her first novel. Ellen lives in Nashua, NH with her husband, Ken, and baby, Emily, and is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Ellen's proceeds from the sale of this book will be awarded to the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross.

My review:

Great book, well written and very insightful. Full of interesting characters and clever dialogue. The author is well on her way to mega stardom after only her first book. Highly recommended.

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352 pages

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