



Live a Little

Kim Green

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When Raquel Rose is told she has breast cancer, she tells her family the diagnosis and goes from being treated like dirt to being treated like a queen. She raises lots of money for breast cancer research, fulfills her artistic promise and finds she loves this new life of hers. Then the doctor calls to tell her she's actually perfectly healthy.

Live a Little Details

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From Reader Review Live a Little for online ebook

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

Reviewed for Rebeccasreads.com

“Live a Little” is the third book by Lisa Green. Her previous books include “Is That a Moose in Your Pocket?” and “Paging Aphrodite”.

Raquel Rose is a wife and mother of two teenagers when a routine visit to the doctor turns into a terminal cancer diagnosis. Raquel goes through a range of emotions when she is given the news and her family is shocked as well. They don’t want to believe it and life is not quite the same.

Then a month later the doctor tells her it has all been a mistake and she is not the Raquel Rose that has breast cancer. After riding the emotional roller coaster she is back on it again but this time knowing that she is fine and how does she tell everyone that it was all a mistake? She tries to give her family the good news over a nice dinner, but they don’t believe her. She is flabbergasted and doesn’t know what to do to convince them that she really is ok.

So she doesn’t. After all, she is getting the royal treatment from the family that took her for granted...or so she thought. Raquel goes along with the deception and while living a lie manages to find her true self in the process and that she isn’t just a housewife and mother, that she is inspirational and a true artist.

I had the full range of emotions regarding this book, I went from hating it in the first 30 pages (so much I wasn’t sure I was going to finish the book) to thinking that the character deserved what she got to admiration for admitting the truth in the end.

While I know that this is a work of fiction, I am a breast cancer survivor and know what women go through when diagnosed which is probably why I hated parts of the book, primarily Raquel’s deception. While it is a fictional character, Raquel had people feeling sorry for her when there was nothing wrong. She took advantage of the situation just for a little fame. Then when Raquel’s friends and family found out that she really didn’t have cancer, I felt like she deserved what came her way. In the end, she made amends and I felt like the story tied up nicely and it all happened for a reason and perhaps she realized that you don’t have to tell lies to get attention, after all it will come back and haunt you.

Wendy says

She packed so many words into one sentence...I had a headache after the first page. While wading through this over wordy book...I had to remind myself what the plot even was.

Sarah says

I was completely disappointed by this book. In fact I had to force myself to finish it. I am giving it 1 1/2 stars.

I had it listed as a choice for my book club and BOY am i GLAD we chose something else.

The premise of the book had me intrigued, what a great idea for a story. What if your hum drum life completely changed when you found out you had stage 4 breast cancer? Your kids nad husband finally recognize what a great person you are, you raise huge amounts of money for research etc. What would you do? Then what would you do if you found out that you were misdiagnosed through a hospital error. What if you didnt want to go back to being hum drum with an indifferent husband and teenage kids. What if you didnt want people to think you were a fraud when you were raising money for research? Would YOU tell??

This book COULD have gone such a great direction, but instead the author chose smut and sex and adulterous affairs.

The character was just so unappealing, I had no connection to her, I really didnt understand her motivation or where she was coming from. She just couldnt and didnt redeem herself in my eyes.

Jen says

Imagine you're diagnosed with an illness. Terminal, but they're going to go through the usual treatments anyway. How would you react? What would you do? Now, imagine that AFTER you tell your friends, your family, AFTER your sister has booked you as a guest on her talk show and you have told the whole town about your diagnosis and what you're going through, AFTER several thousands of dollars in donations to a good cause have been made thanks to your story-

you find out your test results got mixed up with someone else's and you're fine.

NOW what do you do?

Ok, now... if you were someone with less of a moral compass than you... imagine how that would go...

I started off this book thinking "My goodness. How dreary. How depressing. I don't want to read a book about this stuff... but I will, because it builds character and I'm not one to shy away from the yucky parts of life, even if they ARE fictional... But still... I loved this author's other book, but... but... well, how very UN-Kim Green of her!"

I was wrong.

It's no *Paging Aphrodite*, but it still follows the same insane, zany pattern of adventure, while managing to be nightmarish, horrendous and utterly morally bankrupt at the same time.

And yet... oddly enough, you can empathize. We've all been the woman working her butt off just to keep our small piece of the world turning- some people realize this, and just want to live a little.

Kourtney says

At first I thought the subject was intriguing and I'm always looking for a new twist on chick lit. Instead this

was just a main character that was selfish, self-centered, and had no redeeming qualities, a family that is just depressing, and a storyline that makes you feel disgusted knowing there are people out there that would pull the same scam. Halfway through I just started skimming to find where she would get what was due to her. I never found it. Highly disappointing.

Angela says

I just read in the November 2008 issue of Glamour magazine an article titled, "She Said She Had Breast Cancer--But She Lied," by Erin Zammett Ruddy, and it brought to mind this book.

For the most part, I enjoyed Kim Green's novel. Sometimes the author demanded a little more suspension of disbelief than I was comfortable with, especially in the end where everyone is shown having unconditional love for everyone in spite of their mistakes, big and small. In Ruddy's article, the "pretend" cancer patient wasn't forgiven as easily by everyone in the end. And she had a lot of explaining to do.

I thought, as a reader, that Green's glib ending oversimplified the effects of deceit, betrayal, grief, and pain that the characters experienced. Granted, this is a "light" novel, not a serious read. Even so, it didn't resonate with me.

I've struggled with the tough questions and I've come up empty handed plenty of times, but even a "light" read can have some depth to it. I don't know many people who can stop talking about their spouse's affair or gloss over it because of their affection for one another. But maybe I'm blind and everyone is more tolerant than I think.

If you are part of the "I can forgive anything" crowd, this book is for you.

Angela Austin says

This book was really hard to read. Not because of the writing, but the story. The main character is mistakenly diagnosed with Breast Cancer. After she receives the great news that she isn't dying, she neglects to tell anyone, leaving everyone (including her family) that she is still dying. It was hard to stomach. She loved the attention she was finally getting. She was the chick lit's favorite heroine, you know, the overweight, forgotten and ignored sister to the perfect polished accomplished girl. Blah! I am so tired of reading about this same girl! And this one was faking Breast Cancer for crying out loud!

Lisa says

Don't read this review until after you've read the book...I will wait. I read the reviews before I read the book and then I couldn't decide if I liked it or not. I spent the first 5 chapters trying to decide if I liked the book and the last 26 waiting for it to end. The story or should I say the Premise sucked me in. Raquel Rose; nee Rachael Schultz is (mis)diagnosed with breast cancer. Her whole life changes and she decides she likes the new way everyone is treating her so she doesn't tell them about her (mis)diagnosis. There is more family drama in this book than on an episode of Jerry Springer and Maury (combined). She can't fix her life so she tries to fix everyone else's. The funniest part happened on starting on page 333 and was over quickly! I don't

know who is dumber me for reading the book or her family for not figuring out that she was faking.

Kendra says

This book was a complete waste of time. While it was funny at times, it was mainly predictable and derivative. An unlikable main character, who does everything wrong (exercise and eating habits, personal relationships, life choices) but somehow manages to get every benefit she can possibly accrue? Give me a break. This book reeks of the half-thought-out doodlings of a bored, out of shape middle age woman. Have a bit of imagination if you are going to write a book.

I really should stop expecting more from my book club's picks, but books about women don't have to be this lame.

Misti says

I hated this book so much I didn't finish it. I'm usually a read the whole thing in a couple days but with this book I forced myself to open the pages and try and read. It looked good (yup I'm a judge it by the cover kind of gal) and the back sounded good but boy was I ever wrong !!!

Dena says

I had a hard time getting past the fact that this woman pretended to have cancer...regardless of her reasons.

Teresa says

The premise of this book sounds so promising. An under-appreciated mother finds out she has cancer. Her family suddenly values and cares about her. Only she finds out it's a mistake. The problem with the book is the character continues to lie to her family, friends, and public for almost a year; benefiting through her art and her relationships because she continues the deception she has cancer and is receiving treatment. Plus the book isn't that well written.

Don't bother reading!

Sara Cosentino says

Awful, awful, awful!! I was so pissed off at the main character and her woe-is-me attitude towards her life and the terrible way she went through faking cancer, treatment, etc. The only reason I continued through the end was to enjoy her downfall...which didn't happen. Instead she becomes more of a hero? Really??

Jen says

I really did not enjoy this book but felt the need to finish it. Seems to jump around - I pretty much skimmed it to find out what happened. Really not very well written- seemed to have a lot of unuseful details. I can't say I would read another book by this author

Kim Whitley-Gaynor says

I read this book because I was intrigued and hoped to be convinced that there was some plausible, relatable reason why someone would want to pretend they had cancer. This book didn't succeed in even the slightest way. Instead, I found it to be incredibly offensive, and I could barely finish it. Don't waste your time.
