



Awakening Avery

Laurie L.C. Lewis

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Venturing out on her own again is challenging for Avery, whose experiences at the Ringling's magnificent Ca d'Zan mansion, and with the quirky characters she meets there, eventually awaken her to truths she has long forgotten-that as crazy as life can be, it is possible to laugh and love again.

Awakening Avery Details

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Author : Laurie L.C. Lewis

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From Reader Review Awakening Avery for online ebook

Maria Thomas says

Rounding up from 3.5 stars

I liked the basic story line. Avery's family is all learning to deal with the grief of losing a spouse/parent while Gabriel's family is learning to be independent. (Father separate from daughters and daughters separate from father). I haven't really experienced what these families are going through but I feel like they were dealt with pretty accurately. There were various ways of grieving and since no one grieves the same as someone else that feels correct.

We also see how people deal with religion and faith both positively and negatively. The religious aspects of the book are pretty heavy. If you don't like Christian Lit this isn't the book for you.

I liked most of the characters but was annoyed by Gabriel's daughters. They were spoiled and bratty though there was some redemption by the end. My favorite character was George even though he is a minor one and I felt sad that he was estranged from his kids.

This is a romance and has several romances within the story but I think it was really more about learning to live and love after loss.

No sex, language or violence

Rayni says

This was an unput-downable book. I would have read it in one sitting, if I could have. As it was, I'd grudgingly put it down to do what I HAD to do. And then stayed up way too late, finishing it.

The book leaped into my arms as I was leaving the library. Our librarians put new books on bookshelves as you enter/leave the library. I wasn't sure who the author was, I'd never heard of her, but I couldn't deny the book & turned back to check it out with my other books. Of course, the fact that the first chapter heading said, "Logan, Utah." And that sealed the deal. If it took place here, I had to see what it was like.

I seldom read LDS authors because, to quote another reviewer, "I feel as if the story is more about the author wanting to include their religious views on those reading, than they want to tell a good story."

I was pleasantly surprised. There were some twists that I didn't even see coming.

Angela says

4 Stars

Awakening Avery is the third book in the Second Chance Romance Series by Laurie Lewis. I have read a

few of Ms. Lewis's books now and I can always count on her to give me something to sink my teeth into- something that will move me, and something that will keep me well and truly entertained. I have come into this series by reading the third book first- I know, I am a bit backward lol. Needless to say, that this book can be read as a standalone, but it has intrigued me enough to want to know what happened in those first two books, so I will definitely be going back to read them in the near future.

I found this to be quite a thought-provoking story, as I could really relate to Avery and her stage in life- so it really got me thinking about what I would do and how I would cope given the same circumstances that Avery finds herself in. Because I am not so sure I would do very well at all. Which makes me admire Avery all the more for her strength, even as she struggled with depression, grief, feeling lost and somewhat stuck- and unable to move forward. But, she does just that- and it's through this wonderful story that we get to accompany her on this journey to find herself, and begin to 'live' again.

As always, Ms. Lewis writes characters who really make the story special- the story itself is interesting- but it's the characters who really make this story- they are portrayed in such a way that the story becomes 'real' ... entirely believable, and very relatable.

A wonderful second chances story.

Thank you, Ms. Lewis!

Valerie Steimle says

I am a widow. Avery's a widow. My husband died at 50. Avery's husband died in his 50's. I have nine children. Avery has 3 children. I am of the LDS faith. Avery is of the LDS faith. I have a lot in common with Avery. Laurie Lewis's new book called Awakening Avery could have been my journal entry for the first year I lost my husband. There are many similarities and it is incredible to see how this story unfolds for Avery and her family.

This is an amazing story of one woman's journey for peace after losing her husband too early. Avery has to deal with her life post husband's death and then pick up the pieces of her children's life with the grief of their father. I laughed and I cried.

It is an incredible journey of healing and love. Take a break from your life for 344 pages of travel from Utah, to Baltimore, Maryland to Sarasota, Florida and follow the adventures Avery experiences in learning to love again.

Debi says

Awakening Avery (A Second Chance Romance Book 3) by Laurie Lewis

5 amazingly Awesome Stars

I've been staring at my screen for a few minutes trying to figure out the words I want to use to describe my love for this author. I have read many of her books and all of those in this series and I don't know how she does it but she makes me think about things in every story she writes. She absolutely stole my heart in one of my favorite reads ever Love On A Limb, and I can say now that another has been added to that list. I don't

know what it is about her writing or her descriptions or her characters but she has a way of transporting me straight into the stories she writes. There aren't words to describe this that I can think of, and it's driving me crazy because I want people to read my reviews for this author and run straight out and buy every book she has ever written.

This story....so so real and so thoughtful, touching and you can tell she put everything into the telling of this story...Avery and Gabriel stole me away for the entire time I read this and into the day after I finished it. I usually jump right into another book when I complete one, but I couldn't pick one up yesterday after finishing...This one left me needing time. Being a Mother and a Wife for well over half my life had me truly paying attention to every word in this story, and I can honestly say I had no idea where it was going or what was going to happen and I honestly didn't care, I was just happy to be there.

I'm not going to sum this story up, her synopsis is perfect, what I will do is tell you if you haven't read any of this author's books you are severely missing out on one of the most talented writers I have ever experienced, and if stories ever deserve more than 5 stars its this authors in my opinion...There should be another rating scale for those that just take your breath away.

This series does not connect as a series normally does so you can read these in any order, just read them and don't forget her others

All I can say is Thank you Laurie Lewis!!

Brilliant!!

Maura says

This is book 3 in the Second Chance Series. These books are a series by genre only. They can be read independent of each other.

This book held my attention from beginning to end and I read it in one sitting. There were times when I had to stop reading to wipe my eyes. The writing is beautiful in it's complex simplicity. It's a story that has no sex scenes and while it absolutely has strong spiritual understones, it is not trying to convince anyone to change their mind (I know this is vague - I don't want to give anything away.

Here are a few of my favorite quotes (in no particular order...

"Your world is black and white. Mine is full of grays."

"Has anyone else dreamed your dreams? Asked your questions? Seen inside if your heart?"

I absolutely recommend this book and will encourage my mom's book club to read it

Lynne says

I liked this book. The story is sweet and shows how everyone struggles and copes in a different way. The characters are likable. Unrealistic scenarios, but what fiction doesn't have something that is a stretch. The only thing that bugged me was the editorial job (publisher). There are several places in the book where the wrong character name is used. There are also several typo's such as using the instead of it or having an extra word in the sentence. Kind of distracting.

Brenda says

Every once in a while I like to change things up and read a book that is by a Christian writer. I won this book, it was written by an LDS author. The story was extremely well written. There was a story or two within the main story and I won't go into it more so I won't spoil it for those who haven't read it yet, it was really engaging the more that I read it. I couldn't wait to get to the end!

Some times I feel as if the story is more about the author wanting to include their relious views on those reading than they want to tell a good story, not so with this particular book. The story is told first and it just happens to be about a women who loses her husband, a family who loses their father, and those they have involved in their lives outside of the family who are all questioning their faith or lack of. The faith is brought into the story and explained to each person who needs to hear it and each persons views are explained differently so that those listening can perhaps grasp what they are saying, which is the way in life. It isn't as if the author is telling her views in the story and explaining them the same way with each telling.

I myself am not LDS nor do not want to transition to that particular religion, but hearing about the faith and beliefs of those in this story is very intesting and gave me some things to think about in regards to life as a whole and religion, and faith. That can never be a bad thing, can it?

For those who want to read some very thought provoking story within a story, pick this authors book up, Awakening Avery. I know myself I would like to read some of this authors other works now. Thank you to Laurie Lewis, a great book!

Katie says

Awakening Avery
By Laurie C Lewis
5 stars

I love to read books by this author, sometimes it is so nice to have a different pace of story and I always get that from Ms Lewis. Her books are so beautifully written and have fantastic characters and Awakening Avery was no exception. Avery and Gabriel's story was just so touching and beautiful. It felt like I was actually watching their story play out rather than reading it. It was an emotional read too and I really felt like I connected with the characters. I love how Ms Lewis always created such wonderful character, you can tell that she clearly plans them well and thinks out how she wants them to develop across the book. I think Avery was one of the nicest characters that IU have read about, I could feel her pain, her grief and I found moving on just as difficult as she did. I felt like I was right there with her.

Awakening Avery is a beautifully written second chance romance story that I truly loved every minute of. As always I look forward to more from Laurie Lewis in the future.

Michelle Austin says

Awakening Avery was a great 4 star read. Once I started I didn't want to put it down.

This was an emotional read about Avery, a widow trying to move forward with her life after her loss at such a young age. Her kids worried about her being alone.

Avery takes her son's advice and decides to go to Florida for a summer vacation. She ends up swapping homes with a widower and his daughters don't take kindly to Avery at first. It was very emotional reading how everyone moved forward and dealt with their grief.

This was a great second chance romance. I had so many levels of emotion reading this book, it also brought some memories back for me after a loss in my family. Laurie does a great job with her writing and pulls you right in. All of the secondary characters were great. I enjoyed the ending but I wouldn't mind seeing more from these characters.

Sarah says

A great read about trying again. After the death of her husband, Avery Elkins struggles with her feelings. When her son suggests a change of scenery, she is hesitant at first but soon decides it might help. When she does, she finds new friends and an exciting adventure of possibilities.

A great read. Well developed plot with twists and turns that I just couldn't put down. Well developed characters like Avery trying a new adventure while struggling with her feelings or Gabriel being brave while still looking after his daughters. Great supporting cast of friends like Rider and Teddie as fun loving people or Mark as a caring friend.

I loved the visual detail throughout the novel like the inside nautical elements of Gabriel's house or the photos in Avery's house. Or the natural imagery in the book like the sea and the sunset in a gentle beauty of reflection. I also loved the use of passion of reading and writing which was a lovely addition. Overall, a great read and I would give it five stars.

Alisa says

Avery Thompson's dreams, confidence and happiness died with her husband Paul. She finds herself alone for the first time in 28 years. Their three children all have their own challenges too as they struggle with their anger at their father (who didn't take better care of himself even though he knew he had health risks) and their concern for their mother who has lost herself in her widowhood.

Gabriel Carson has been widowed for over 20 years and has raised his two daughters by himself. He is torn

between making his daughters happy (keep spoiling them) or strong (making them step up and do some hard things). So he makes a rash decision to take a job out of town and swapping the rental of his house for someone else's. He and Avery end up swapping houses and getting to know each other.

I loved all the characters in this story and the way their lives all inter-related, but at times it felt like too much was going on simultaneously.

Content: Clean

Source: Review Copy (opinion is 100% my own)

Lucy Berson says

Awakening Avery, by Laurie Lewis.

Awakening Avery is a very moving and touching book. When we first meet Avery, so is coming to grips with losing her husband suddenly. She is trying to be strong for herself and her three children. It really makes you think about your own life. The strong belief in each other and the trust that they put into their faith was remarkable. When her son tells her that he is considering moving she is initially upset, especially when he tries to convince her to go with him. After declining his invitation to move, Avery gives in and goes with Wes to Florida. Could a change of scenery be exactly what Avery needs to move past the past and start fresh?

I truly hope that you enjoy this as well as this author's other books, as much as I have.

Anne says

I opened Awakening Avery by Laurie Lewis with great anticipation because I thoroughly enjoyed reading all Laurie's other books. I was not disappointed. This is a delightful, thought provoking novel that left me satisfied and uplifted.

Although the main character, Avery, is older than many heroines, two romantic subplots that run alongside the main story make the book one that I'm sure will appeal to both young and old. Laurie has a way of moving readers to laughter, tears, and deep pondering. I recommend Awakening Avery one hundred percent. Let Florida's sea air transport you to a place where life's darkest shadows eventually get blown away.

Sheila says

Laurie Lewis, well known as L.C. Lewis, author of the "Free Men and Dreamers" historical fiction series, has written a heart warming and very emotionally driven book. There are many feelings that are brought up in the reader as this novel progresses. I was hooked from the very first page.

"Everyone knew it was inevitable-everyone but Avery Elkins Thompson herself. She smashed the television first, though she hadn't intended to. She had fumbled with the remote for ten minutes, trying to figure out how to record an NBC special, and when the TiVo brought up the screen with the list of programs to record-

his list...she lost it. She hurled the remote across the room, not intending for it to hit the center of the screen, but it did."

Right after you read this first paragraph, you want to know more about Avery. Why is she so angry? Why did she lose it? What happened to her to lead to this point in her life? As a reader you are drawn in so quickly to the emotions of Avery and her heartache. She is someone that is flawed, but you choose to cheer for her from the start.

Avery is turning 50, so she is not a young female that is usually seen in many novels. Avery is a woman who has loved and lost. She is being pulled in so many directions, from her grown-up children and their problems to dealing with the loss of her beloved husband. In "Awakening Avery" we go on a journey of healing with her. I found the characters to be so real, with emotions seen in all of us. The grief was portrayed realistically, as was the loneliness and pain of being single again.

In the book, Avery is a famous author. She sets forth to write another novel. As she tries to find the muse to jump start her writing career again, she remembers what her Grandfather told her many years ago.

" 'Don't just tell a story, Avery Xandra. Take me somewhere. Teach me something.' The challenge had always seemed so daunting at first. 'What could I possibly teach you Grandfather?' She still remembered his soft, encouraging rebuke, delivered with a cock of his head and a rapid click of his tongue, 'Has anyone else dreamed your dreams? Asked your questions? Seen inside your heart? Show me those things-teach me about those things.'

Avery thought again about her life. She had seen, lived, loved, and lost much. What have I learned from these things?" "

This was my favorite part of the whole book. I felt like Laurie was talking to me, an aspiring author. I am going to keep these words somewhere close to me as I write. This was a lesson for me from a master storyteller. My heart also loved the character of George, Avery's fellow LDS friend. She learned many lessons from this wise, older friend. I wish that more of the relationship had been played out between Gabriel and Avery, but the way it was presented, was clever and it worked in the long run.

Laurie truly knows how to draw the reader in and never let you go until the very last page. "Awakening Avery" is a story that will stay with you for a very long time.
