



# The Last Laugh

*Tracy Bloom*

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**The Last Laugh** Tracy Bloom

'Oh this was **such a brilliant read**. I was engrossed and **laughed out loud and welled up**. It was great!' Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars

**Jenny discovers her days are numbered at the same time she discovers her husband is having an affair...**

Frankly, she had enough on her plate already. Two tricky teenagers, her mother's constant complaints, friends who aren't up to the job and a career which has been spiralling downwards since she won 'Sunseeker Tour Rep of the Season' twenty years ago.

And now this. Enough is enough! Jenny vows to keep both revelations a secret. She takes her life into her own hands and decides to live as she did when she was happiest... in 1996. She plans a spectacular 1990s themed party in place of a wake that she herself will attend. But will she be able to keep her secrets for long enough to have the party of a lifetime?

***The Last Laugh* is both hilarious and heartbreaking, a book about how to find happiness and live your life as though every day is your last.**

**From No. 1 bestseller Tracy Bloom, this book is perfect for fans of Marian Keyes and *The Kicking the Bucket List*.**

What readers are saying about *The Last Laugh*:

**I laughed and cried...** Reading it has given me a new perspective! You really don't know the minute your world could change forever. **I read it in one day!** *The Introverted Mum*

'A stunning book that was both funny and incredibly heartbreakingly sad. This book was just a wonderful celebration of the character's life, strength and courage. **Fabulous.**' Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars

**'Absolutely loved this book!** What should be a really sad story is written so well and with such zest and optimism that it's impossible not to be smiling. A beautifully-told tale.' Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars

'Thought-provoking, warm, and extremely funny. You will love Jenny! She is all of us! A hard-working, sweats wearing, wine-loving mother (complete with "mom body"), who possesses a great sense of humour about everything... even death.' *Reels and Reads*

**I laughed and cried** in equal measure at this book... highly recommended.' Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars

'A wonderful blend of humour and at times tears, as Jenny struggles to "live" each moment and to move as if she was "on top of the world" in 1996... Jenny has courage along with humour and as she says: "Time to start living." Great story!' Goodreads reviewer

'This book is **heartbreaking** at times but **hilarious** in others... **fantastic.**' Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars

'If Tracy Bloom's other books are like *The Last Laugh* she definitely has a new fan. I felt instantly connected to the main character, Jenny, like I was part of her life... It inspired me to make the most of the life I have.'

*After the Rain*

**'I never wanted this book to end...** A delightful, yet emotional book which will make you laugh and cry.'

*Jenny in Neverland*, 5 stars

'An **unforgettable** and highly entertaining read.' *Pretty Little Book Reviews*

**'Uplifting, life-affirming, and most of all funny!...**

## The Last Laugh Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2018 by Bookouture

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Author : Tracy Bloom

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# From Reader Review The Last Laugh for online ebook

**Kavita Kumar-Karthik says**

This was heart-breaking !! The 'C' word I believe is the most dreaded word in the world right now. Sometimes, it makes life feel so unfair. Books like these teach us to live our lives to the fullest each day, to show our love to our family each day, to not take family for granted each day.. Each day matters.. you never know when you'll lose someone dear to you.. And while the thought can be disheartening and gloomy, there are so many people who regret to not have done more, to not to have said more, to not to have shown more..

Jenny is living a life which is crumbling out of control. Her husband finds her boring, her daughter finds her embarrassing and her son prefers keeping to himself. And if the current situation wasn't bad, she finds out that she has cancer and also finds her husband cheating on her with a colleague.. Her mother always finds fault in her and keeps her absent doctor brother on a pedestal. Her father has Alzheimer.. Phew.. We are on a sad, heart-breaking roll here.. Hurdles after hurdles..

Jenny remembers the year of 1996, when she used to work as a tourist guide and how everything was so sparkly then.. With her life shortened because of cancer, she wants to make the most of the time remaining.. She plans a farewell party for herself, though all the invitees think it is a simple get together.. She invites her absent brother, her long lost friends, her family.. all the people who matter to her..

Now, normally under such pressurizing circumstances, most people break down, lash out.. something.. at least demolish your cheating husband's car..I would've !! But not Jenny !! She calmly plans a 1996 themed party..

At first, I really didn't understand Jenny.. **I mean, lady, your husband is having an affair and you are dying.. Show me some angst !!** It was as if she's in her own 1996 world and that annoyed me.. But as the book progressed, we could see her trying to help everyone around her.. Her son, daughter, her parents, her brother..and even her husband.. I realize that if she had acted in anger, she might have lost the little family bonding she was able to achieve at the end of the book.. *Lesson learned : Decide if arguments are more important than family.* It might have taken so much courage for Jenny to forgive all those selfish people around her..And that's why this book felt good to me..

Though, I would have liked an epilogue in the end could've shown Jenny's family coping after her death, many years down the line.. her children growing to be compassionate adults..her brother realizing his responsibilities towards his parents.. her friends missing her.. Maybe they could have had a get together in her memory.. Something to show the impact which her selflessness had on others..

*Thank you NetGalley and Bookouture for giving me this opportunity to read and review this ARC in exchange for my honest review*

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## **Sandy \*The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice\* says**

EXCERPT: I look back at Mark. My chosen path. I've purposely not told him what's going on so far, which might appear strange but I cannot seem to say the words out loud. I cannot even bear to hear them. I've tried. I've stood in front of the mirror and formed the words in my head and tried to force them out of my mouth but nothing comes out. I just stare and stare and stare at myself and think, is this really happening? If I don't actually say the words then maybe it isn't, maybe everything will be all right.

ABOUT THIS BOOK: 'I've googled it, how to die,' Jenny says to Maureen. 'It was full of climbing this mountain, swimming that sea, becoming a marathon runner and raising millions for charity.'

'Sounds like bloody hard work. You can make it more fun than that surely?'

Jenny discovers her days are numbered at the same time she discovers her husband is having an affair...

Frankly, her life was tough enough already. Two tricky teenagers, her mother's constant complaints, friends who aren't up to the job and a career which has been spiralling downwards since she won 'Sunseeker Tour Rep of the Season' twenty years ago.

And now this: a cheating husband and a death sentence.

Enough is enough. Jenny vows to keep both catastrophes a secret. She takes her life – and death – into her own hands and decides to live as she did when she was happiest... in 1996. She plans a spectacular 1990's themed party in place of a wake that she herself will attend. But will she be able to keep her secrets for long enough to have the party of a lifetime?

From No. 1 bestseller Tracy Bloom, *The Last Laugh* is both hilarious and heartbreaking, a book about how to find happiness and live your life as though every day is your last. Perfect for fans of Marian Keyes and *Kicking the Bucket List*.

MY THOUGHTS: I am probably the only person who has so far read *The Last Laugh* by Tracy Bloom who hasn't found it hilarious. Instead, I found it sad, poignant and strangely uplifting.

Jenny has attitude in spades. I loved her 'well f\*\*k you' attitude, and her determination to live her life on her terms. I also admired the way she dealt with her husband's affair.

Maureen was wonderful. She shows the wisdom of age and experience. She sees and understands things that Jenny can't, because she is too closely involved. And she calls a spade a spade. We all need a Maureen in our lives.

There are a lot of life lessons in this book. Lessons about taking a look at and considering the 'bigger picture', not just your own little role in things, about the importance of friendship and the different roles the same people play at different points in your life, about not being too hasty to write people off, and about second chances.

I was expecting a light, fluffy, chic-lit read, but I got so much more from this book. I think that what people will take from this book will depend on where they are at in their lives. But regardless, it is a delightful and touching read. 4.5 surprised stars from me.

Thank you to Bookouture via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of The Last Laugh by Tracy Bloom for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com  
<https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...>

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## **Carrie says**

The Last Laugh by Tracy Bloom is the second book I've picked up by this author and she's quickly becoming known to me as one to expect the laughs to come quickly. This book however has a rather sad side to the plot but the main character does her best to not become sad and still throws those one liners and off the wall actions at the user to keep us smiling.

The story introduces us to Jenny who is a mom to a couple of teenagers and a wife of about twenty years now. It was time for Jenny to head to the doctor where she gets the horrible news of having incurable cancer but as if that isn't bad enough for her when she seeks out solace from her husband she finds him bending a female co-worker over the office furniture with his pants around his ankles. Oh my.

Does Jenny let all of this ruin her? Heck no. Jenny decides that if she's going to go out of this world she's going to do it on her own terms and those would not be with tears and sympathy. Instead Jenny decides to take a trip back to a time in her life when she was the happiest she can remember in her version of a mid-life, or end of life crisis in her case.

From the opening pages I knew this book was going to contain one of those characters that I just couldn't help but to love, a harried mom with her over the top answer to any situation that kept the laughter coming even in the darkest moments for her. Her horrific situation and her battle through dealing with it made the book one that should touch any reader giving it that up and down emotional roller coaster feel. When finished I will definitely be keeping an eye out for more from Tracy Bloom in the future.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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## **Shalini says**

A book I read with a lump the size of tennis ball in my throat and a smile on my lips. A book that I read with tears falling and roaring laughter. How do I then review such a book...

Jenny finds out she has terminal cancer and her husband having an affair all on the same day. The story starts with that, but it goes on to become something so much genuine where there are tears, laughter, joy and sorrow. Knowing that she has limited time and that funerals are for the living, she decides to throw herself a going away party. A party just like the one she had in 1996, when she met her husband Mark and hooked up

with him. The story then goes on to remind her husband and her kids what true family is all about.

The Last Laugh by Tracy Bloom, is not at all about death, but it is about living, how to make the days matter, how to live in hope, and how precious every minute is.

We can live however we want, let's live in hope for however long we have...

No truer words than these have ever spoken. The author, Tracy Bloom writes romantic comedies, but this book surpasses the others. She has described life from the eyes of a dying woman, who wants to bring back the days of laughter, the days of love, and the days where relationships and friendships were important.

A beautiful, poignant read but without the drama of dying but the happiness of living... A story of joie de vivre and laughter...

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### **?Dani? ?Touch My Spine Book Reviews? says**

This was a fantastic book filled with laughter and even moments that wrenched your heart! This book was one of a kind and I LOVED the whole experience!

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### **Whispering Stories says**

Book Reviewed by Stacey on [www.whisperingstories.com](http://www.whisperingstories.com)

Jenny had just been given the devastating news that she had terminal cancer, and most likely looking at 18 months to 2 years left to live. Having been to the hospital appointment on her own, she decided she needed to talk to her husband and went to visit him at work, where he was working late. Unfortunately, it wasn't paperwork he was dealing with, although there was a filing cabinet involved, but some leggy blonde woman.

After leaving the office building, unnoticed, realisation set in, she was really dying and her husband was really cheating. Determined to be herself for as long as possible, she decided to forgo chemotherapy and put off telling her family, confiding in only one person, a woman at the care home she works at, Maureen. Well, who else could she open up to? Cheating hubby, anxious 15 year old son, moody 17 year old daughter, mother who has always seen the worst in her, a brother who was never around, or her dad that had dementia, and this isn't including 'friends' that are so far up their own arses.

She might not have been able to stop the cancer from eventually taking her life, but she could have the best 18 (ish) months that she could have, starting with turning the clocks back to 1996.

Since the death of my dad from cancer in 2016, I've avoided books that deal mainly with subjects like this one, terminal cancer and death. However, I've been reading Tracy Bloom's books for many years, so I knew what the writing was going to be like. I also knew that she would take a difficult subject to talk about and make it into something positive and enjoyable, I wasn't wrong.

The plot is a humorous take on one woman coming to terms with her cancer prognosis and deciding to take matters into her own hands. She has nothing left to lose anymore, so with a new haircut, adventurous clothes,

a slim body (though not intentional), and a no holds barred attitude, Jenny has returned to how she was when she felt like the happiest woman alive. She doesn't want people's sympathy, or their tears. This is her death and she is going to go about it, however the hell she wants to.

I liked Jenny from the beginning. Some people might not understand her attitude of wanting to go to a medical appointment alone, or not telling her family of her diagnosis, but I could understand her perfectly. What I saw was a woman trying to protect those she loved, plus she didn't have to deal with people looking at her sympathetically or trying to wrap her in cotton wool, she just wanted to be herself for as long as she could. She only chose to tell elderly Maureen as she knew that she wouldn't sugar coat anything, nor go all sappy on her.

Ms. Bloom has managed to take a hard to deal with subject and whilst keeping the seriousness of it, has written a plot that you can laugh along with. Yes, there are a few 'gulp' moments, but for the vast majority of the book I had a smile on my face.

This is a beautiful book that has been exquisitely crafted and one that I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

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## **Agi says**

I don't know if "The Last Laugh" is a new direction for the author, or she has just wanted to try something new for a moment - whatever it is, it has worked and Tracy Bloom has delivered a wonderful, poignant story. It is being advertised as a "romantic comedy", however I wouldn't agree with this, for me it was more poignant than laugh - out - loud, although the book had its funny moments as well - of course, it is Tracy Bloom's book!

On the day Jenny (mum of two) finds out she's terminally ill, she also finds out her husband is shagging another woman in his office. Not her best day, that's for sure. But instead of confronting her husband or even telling her family about the cancer, she decides to try and recapture the fun she used to have when she was in her twenties (because those were her best years, when she was the happiest) and with Maureen's help (an elderly lady from the care home where Jenny works) she organises a 1996 themed party, with Spice Girls, bouncy castles, sumo suits, food and her old friends from back then - what follows are tons of misunderstandings, reunions, makeovers.

Jenny does everything that we forget that she has cancer and my heart really went to her. She was a great character, although to be honest at the beginning I wasn't sure what to do with her and what to think about her. I'll be honest with you, I didn't totally get why Jenny doesn't want to tell her family about her cancer. Yes, the circumstances, finding out her husband is cheating on her, I understand, she was in shock, but I mean, you are terminally ill? You'd want to share this with your family, no? However, it changed very quickly and she had my full attention and sympathy. She was strong, incredibly strong, despite having to cope with unfaithful husband, illness, stubborn, moody, stropky daughter and shy and anxious son with some problems. She was very independent and didn't treat herself too seriously, and to be honest, after getting to know her very dismissive mother and always absent brother, I supported her in her decision of not telling anybody about the cancer. Even though the older, always knowing everything better characters are not my favourite ones, this time I loved Maureen, her friend from the care home, who took care of Jenny, even though she was the one to be taken care of.



I really, really liked the end. I was afraid that I'm going to end a snotty mess but Tracy Bloom has brilliantly resolved this situation. I don't think the end was abrupt or too rushed. I don't have to know what has happened to Jenny because well, we DO know what has happened to Jenny going forwards. I just didn't have to read about it - I fell for Jenny and she felt like one of my friends and I think seeing her the way I thought the book is going to end would break me apart. So huge brownie points for the author for doing what she did, for letting us to decide about our own goodbye to Jenny.

"The last Laugh" was an emotional read that will make you cry and laugh and maybe start to appreciate your life even more. It was about cherishing your life and those around you as well, but also about the fact that you should be cherished by your family and friends as well. It was bittersweet and very real. It was a touching story about relationships, marriage, being in love, friends and about making new memories. It was full of some incredibly poignant moments that hit me really hard. Let's make some good memories, guys.

Copy provided by the publisher in return for an honest review.

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## **Ana says**

Actual rating 3.5/5.

Originally posted on This Chick Reads

Well, this book was certainly not what I expected. I haven't read any of Tracy's books yet however I do have a couple at home as they were recommended by friends who know I like rom coms. So, naturally I expected a comedy of some sort, maybe with a bit of romance and loads of laughs too. The 'chick lit-ish' cover fooled me too. But nope...this is definitely not a comedy, fluffy, or LOL read. Which doesn't mean it's bad, it's just really caught me off guard.

Now, I decided to read this book even before I read the blurb, which to some it might seem like a stupid idea but it's something I do once in a while but just for authors I was recommended to read. And Tracy Bloom is definitely an author whose writing style is totally up my alley and I'm most definitely planning on bumping her books up in my TBR pile.

But back to The Last Laugh now.. It is definitely not a comedy but a bitter-sweet story about a woman in her mid 40s who's just received the most awful news of having cancer. Now I know a lot of people avoid books with the C-word in it (and who knows, I might be one of them as I get very emotional while reading them) so consider yourself warned. However, what I can tell you is that it's an interesting take on someone who's struggling and I'd most definitely recommend you read it despite maybe avoiding this subject in books. Jenny is a 45 year old woman who was once adventurous, full of life and dreams, used to work as tour rep in Corfu and throw wild parties at the beach. Fast forward 20 years, she's working in an old people's home (nothing bad just a huge change), she's got two kids (one of them struggling with anxiety, the other a loud teenager) and is married to Mark but their relationship is not what it used to be. And one would say she still has a normal life however it all shatters when she's diagnosed with cancer and given max of two more years. On top of that, the very same day she receives the awful news, she catches her husband cheating on her. So, she's got her plate full, that's obvious but the way she handles these situations was more than fascinating to me.

Realizing she might not have much time left she decides to stand up for herself, re-creating the happy, care-free 1996 Jenny. In her own words, 1996 was the year she was the happiest, enjoying Spice Girls concerts, the sunny beaches in Corfu and the moments she fell in love with Mark. I have to say I found it a bit strange and I have mixed feelings about her fixation on the past. I totally understand that each of us creates memories and when life gets shit and out of our control we tend to visit a more familiar ground...so we turn to memories. But Jenny...oh boy she goes a lot further and this made me feel so sad at times. Of course I had sympathy and understanding for her illness, and even though she did an amazing job in hiding it from all of her friends and family I could feel she's deeply suffering. I am not much of a person who likes to dwell on the past, yet Jenny seemed so fixated on it, comparing her life now with the one she had when she was 25. I honestly wanted to gently shake her off a bit and tell her to focus on the future and the time she has. I don't know, again this could be me.

While the story was interesting and kept me turning the pages I have to say I have mixed feelings about Jenny as a character. The book does open with a scene in Corfu where she meets Mark, however I didn't feel much of the romance. I just couldn't see them as a couple, didn't feel even their fights as strongly. I also didn't understand why she'd keep her diagnose a secret... but this could be me. But I found it not very convincing, on the one hand she's madly in love with this man on the other hand she doesn't want him with her at the Doctors? I don't know... it just doesn't seem OK to me.

However, there was a lot I liked in this book. I do like how Jenny acts bravely despite the bad news, how she cares about her friends and family. But I absolutely loved how she transforms from this silent woman and 'victim' in her family to a woman who stands up to her mother, brother and husband. Overall, if you're fans of drama, I do think you will enjoy it. And as for me, I definitely will be reading more of Tracy's books.

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## **Thamy says**

Don't let my rating fool you, this was an enjoyable story of a woman figuring out how to live now she knows when she's going to die.

Jenny finds out her husband is cheating on her exactly when she's ready to tell him she has terminal cancer. Also, her relationship with her daughter isn't the best and her son depends on her since his father is never there for him. How can she let them go just like that? So she decides to postpone informing everyone and to fully live, like she did back when she met her husband. For that, what's better than a 1996-themed party?

I was expecting to laugh more, and while this was far from being a heavy read about a dying woman, this wasn't any sort of parody. In fact, the result was very interesting because of how well the author dosed between humor and seriousness; it's a different perspective. Because of this, the story isn't as predictable.

Then why just three stars? First, I still think the story was lukewarm, it could have made me feel more—although it did make me cry a little at times. Also, I'm not sure I enjoyed how Jenny found her peace of mind by the end (no, I don't mean dying, this is a spoiler-free review); I hoped for more retribution on characters who did her bad. You kind of expect feel-good literature like this one to be fairer where the real world isn't, and yet, she was almost apologetical toward those people. Why? Most of them deserved a kick on their bottoms, to be honest. So, yes, I expected this book to be smarter, since the plot itself is quite smart.

Still, this is a great read for everyone who thinks they have already peaked to think again. There are so many lessons to extract from Jenny's stories! Yes, it could have been better, but I think it's already entertained me

quite well.

Honest review based on an ARC provided by Netgalley. Many thanks to the publisher for this opportunity.

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## **Aiade Guerra says**

The two tropes I avoid the most are present on this book: terminal illnesses and cheating, yet I decided to read this book on a whim.

Why do I do this to myself? There were as many tears as I expected and not as much laughter as it suggests...

What makes it a 4-star read though, is that it shows resilience and the importance of strong bonds through a flawed and lovely woman, and whew, it makes you think, specially because it doesn't cheapen something as strong as pain! It was incredible to see the development of some characters, even people I thought I would hate I started to accept (some out of pity, some because they were able to see the light - rationally - before what I think would be beyond repair).

Generally speaking, these kinds of stories are too much for my emotional tastes, so I know I can never re-read them, but pieces like the one below will stay with me:

*"So what you have to do, what you absolutely must do, is throw yourself into making good memories. Amazing ones. Ridiculously crazy ones. If you do nothing else with your life, spend it making the most crazy-shit memories you can to cancel out the bad ones. Do you understand?"*

If I were to change anything about it, I'd make the epilogue into maybe two long chapters, and only then give an epilogue with a more decisive path shown. The rushed feel of the end is what takes 1 star out of my review.

Also, I'd like to hug Maureen and George. They were my favorite characters.

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## **Inn Auni says**

I Googled 'how to die' and the first on the list is befrienders.org, a support group for people with suicidal tendency. The next on the list is ways to die either fast or painless. Nothing on the list that suggested 'climbing this mountain, swimming that sea, becoming a marathon runner and raising millions for charity.' That's the reason I got my hand on this book.

We were introduced to Julie and the first half of the book was either her reminiscing her old self or telling me what's happening.

'Jenny discovers her days are numbered at the same time she discovers her husband is having an affair...'

It had its 1998 Stepmom moments in it to the point I was waiting for it to turn into Stepmom because the first half progressed in a slow pace.

The second half was much better because Jenny was planning something with her life. And it's an eye opener that something like death was needed for Jenny to pursue her true self. In a sense it did make sense because Jenny had no restraint. Her death sentence was already handed down to her. What more worst can she get?

The second half was the savior of this book. It was funny and witty and fun. It was what Jenny wanted. It was the highlight of the book. But it's also kind of sad that to get to the good part, I have to endure the first part. The five stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. To get to step number five, I have to endure step one to four. It's not boring rather than Jenny being annoying. She was tip-toeing either she wanted sympathy or be treated the same way.

However, I'm glad I gave this book a try. It wasn't romantic-comedy or tragic because it was in the middle. And the best thing I like was that it made me think what year was the best for me and would I relive it. I'm going to remember Jenny for a long time. She's the girl who can say it triumphantly that she made it through high and low and still rock the ginger hair.

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## **BIBLIOMANIAC MJ says**

" '...well, you're starting to look a bit too thin, that's all.' I nod. How many times have I dreamed of someone saying that to me? Being accused of being too thin is like being told you've won too many Oscars in my book. Magical, magical words if ever they come your way. If only I didn't have to get cancer to hear them."

Jenny has plenty to cope with as it is: Ellie, her difficult 17 year daughter; George, her anxious 15 year old son, her demanding mother; her father suffering from alzheimers; her caretaker job at the old age home. But those issues are now pale in comparison to Jenny's discovery that she has terminal cancer AND that her husband of twenty years is cheating on her!

Adding humour to the dead serious topic of being terminally ill can be a gamble of hit or miss if it's not executed sensitively. And this is where Tracy Bloom's talent stands out as she effortlessly combined the two, creating a beautiful story, with its emotional ups and downs bringing tears to my eyes, perfectly balanced with moments that had me giggling to myself on several occasions.

The story was greatly enhanced with a 'liquorice all sorts' arrangement of colourful characters you won't soon forget. I loved Jenny's decision to be happy even if her world was falling apart, her resilience and her courage. I also loved her elderly friend Maureen... not only because I share the same name as her but her sharp wit and no nonsense wisdom made me wish I had a Maureen as my friend too. I love how the author incorporated her and the other folks at the old age home as an integral part of the story...old folks have so much to give if we only give them the time to give it.

A book that surprised me with its many life lessons, it is guaranteed to make you look at your own life and question how well you're living it.

" 'There's going to be plenty of bad stuff that haunts your memories, Ellie. Loads of crap you've not even had nightmares about yet.' She stares back at me, petrified. 'So what you have to do, what you absolutely must do, is throw yourself into making good memories. Amazing ones. Ridiculously crazy ones. If you do nothing else with your life, spend it making the most crazy-shit memories you can to cancel out the bad ones. Do you understand?' "

A bitter-sweet book that I was sure would have me heartbroken by the end. It did have me shedding tears, yet it surprisingly also left me feeling comforted, leaving me with a sense of hope, inspiring me to cherish my loved ones even more and go out into the world and make some 'crazy-shit' good memories with them.

I would like to thank Netgalley, Bookouture and Tracy Bloom for an advanced copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Suze Lavender says**

Jenny's husband Mark is busy with the deal of his life and when Jenny needs him to go to the hospital with her, he doesn't even make the time for her to be able to ask. She hears the devastating news that she hasn't got long to live on her own. When she drives to her husband's office for support she finds him with another woman. Jenny is heartbroken and decides to take a good look at her life. The adults around her don't show enough of an interest in her, so Jenny doesn't feel inclined to share her news and she isn't ready to inform her teenage children yet, so instead she decides to go back to happier times. She'll be the Jenny she was in 1996 when she met Mark and she's determined to make several wrongs right again along the way.

Jenny isn't going to think about her funeral. She wants people to get together to celebrate her life while she's still among them instead. That's why she decides to throw a party. This party should have the 1996 theme and everyone she now knows and used to know is invited. Jenny only confides in one person and doesn't let anyone else know she's ill. Will she be able to keep her secret until the party and will her decision to keep the image of a lively Jenny instead of someone with a terminal illness work the way she thinks it should?

The Last Laugh is a beautiful poignant story. Jenny has the most terrible day imaginable. She hears she has an incurable illness and instead of giving her the support she so desperately needs, her husband is cheating on her. My heart ached for her and I had tears in my eyes when I read her news. I admired Jenny's courage and strength. Her reaction is dignified and she decides she will live with the news her way. She wants to relive happy moments, teach her children some valuable lessons and celebrate the good times she still has with the people she loves. I admired her courage and absolutely loved the idea behind this story, it's sad, but it's also hopeful.

Tracy Bloom has written an original story. The Last Laugh is heartbreaking, but Tracy Bloom's sense of humor makes sure it doesn't get too heavy. Reading about what Jenny's going through made me cry, but it also put a smile on my face several times. I liked that combination very much. The subject matter of The Last Laugh is serious and thought-provoking and Tracy Bloom's creative way of dealing with it constantly surprised me. Jenny is a gorgeous main character and her story will stay with me for a long time.

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### **Melissa (Mel's Bookshelf) says**

4.25 Stars

Bittersweet! That's the main word that pops into my mind when I think about this book. So sad yet so joyful and lovely. Devastating, yet uplifting. I haven't read many non-psychological thrillers from bookouture, but they have hit the mark on the head with every genre it seems!

On the day Jenny finds out she has terminal cancer, she finds out her husband is screwing a leggy blonde.

Talk about a bad day. So in order to make herself feel alive again, she organises a huge party. Just like the ones she had in her 20's. She invites all her family and old friends to come along. What transpires is a lovely story of reconciliation, moving through regrets, and of love.

To be honest when I started this book I didn't like it. I thought that Jenny was a complete dill. How could she act so blasé about a terminal cancer diagnosis. And I couldn't relate to her not being able to tell anyone about it. But as I kept reading I began to warm to her and the other characters, and by 3/4 through I was laughing out loud.

I really started to enjoy the characters and the dialogue. Although I couldn't help but feel like her husband was a complete bastard, I was even warming to him by the end. Impending death puts everything into perspective I guess.

The main thing I was surprised about was how much I was thinking about this book after I finished. Not only thinking about the actual book, but thinking about the main theme - How important it is to enjoy your life right now. How you shouldn't wait to mend relationships and how you should always try to be happy, even when life is really REALLY crappy. I like to think of myself as a pretty upbeat, easy going person. I have seen quite a few people die (occupational hazard of being a nurse I guess...) But I don't know how I would handle this if it happened to me.

Would I recommend The Last Laugh?

Absolutely. It was a quick, entertaining and upsetting in a good way. Death is a part of life, and I really enjoyed and appreciated this perspective. Great book!

Many thanks to author Tracy Bloom and Bookouture via NetGalley for a copy of The Last Laugh for me to review.

For more reviews check out my blog  
[www.booksbabiesbeing.com](http://www.booksbabiesbeing.com)

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## **Dash fan says**

4? Poignant, Heartbreaking yet humorous.

First of all I want to start by saying as a rule I don't read books that have any reference to the Big 'C' Word for personal reasons.

So when I see the blurb for The Last Laugh I was drawn to it. I think it's due to the witty blurb I was hoping this would be a more light hearted read.

I'm glad to say although it was emotional there was enough humour to balance it.

Yes this is a subject that is so current and very very real but Tracy added her special spark and she made it emotional yet light hearted, with the right amount of sensitive humour.

I admired Jenny's strength and determination to live life after her diagnosis.

Jenny decides to keep her diagnosis to herself, rightly or wrongly this is the case for many people so it

showed us a different side to coping.

You see Jenny's husband is a cheating scumbag! When Jenny needs him most he is busy servicing he's work colleague.

After getting both pieces of news I would of gone to pieces.

But not Jenny she was amazing.

She dusts herself off and decides that she is not going to let the 'C' word destroy what time she has left.

She's going to kick butt and have a rip roaring time. What better way then with a trip down memory lane.

With the help from her good friend Maureen she plans the perfect party.

The Last Laugh is very thought provoking, and will really hit home to cherish family, friends and life.

It's beautifully written with much thought and sensitivity the whole way through.

It will leave you emotional, laughing out loud, caring for the characters, poignant moments, it leaves you looking at life from a different perspective.

I do think if you are sensitive like me then still give The Last Laugh a try as you might be pleasantly surprised.

A beautifully Poignant Read that you will remember. Definently one to watch out for!

Thank you to Bookouture for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my blog website:

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

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