

BOOK REVIEW BY JULIE MAGOSTE: *THE LAST MERRY GO ROUND* BY AUTHOR C.L CHARLESWORTH revolves around the family of Richard Fletcher, a Harvard educated Lawyer, his wife, Diane Fletcher, children Leah, Nina, and Sarah. Richard is a violent man who beats and abuses his wife both mentally and physically. For the love of her daughters, fear, and a conviction that she must keep her family together for better or worse, Diane puts up with Richard's beatings, abuses and extra marital affairs, unaware of Richard's damage in each of their lives. With the help of her Psychiatrist, Samantha, Diane pulls through this journey, though most of the time she tells half-truths of what she goes through. Diane's mother Ester, sister, Camille, and brother in-law, Alan, Annette, and Ruby try to support her as she doesn't have friends, courtesy of Richard cutting them off. Richard's threats and being from a prominent family in Denver forces Diane to keep to her heart every ordeal. She has used make-up tricks to hide his work, plastic surgery for a broken nose and cheekbone, and an expensive Paris dermatologist.

Everything is normal until Sarah reveals a secret she has been keeping since Richard and Leah visited her in London the year before.

I like the strength of Diane. Despite her being in a loveless marriage, she loves her husband, children, her mother, and sister, and even maintains a cordial relationship with Helen, Richard's mother and confidante. Her love for her family is seen as being naïve even by her daughter, Leah,, who continuously despises her, calling her uneducated and a stupid bitch. Diane's inability to be open to her mother or psychiatrist enables Richard to continue with his dominating and crude behavior, leaving her weak and vulnerable, so that people who love her, like her mother, Ester, cannot help her despite loving her.

There's nothing as empowering as reading about how someone was able to turn things around even in the darkest of times. It starts to make you think you can, too — and there's no reason you can't! This inspirational book by C.L Charlesworth will give you all the motivation you need to get out there and start leading the life you want to live. If you are a *Lover of Pretend I'm Dead* by Jen Beagin and *A Heart in a Body in the World* by Deb Caletti, you will find this book very inspiring and an eye opener.

I rate this book 4/5 because the author's accounts inform the reader "At any given moment you have the power to say this is not how the story is going to end." — Christine Mason Miller