



## Leftovers

*Arthur Wooten*

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"Just like the Tupperware she sells, Vivian Lawson is destined to be an American icon. In this tale of heartbreak, failure, redemption, love and triumph, Arthur Wooten's gift for storytelling makes Leftovers a delicious read. I can't wait to read it again!" - Michelle Churchill, author of I Thought I Grew Up "I highly recommend this book for every household with a woman living in it." - Ella Johnson, Mymcbooks

"Leftovers is a page turning easy read just in time for summer." - Krista Smith, AskMissA.com Vivian Lawson's fantasy of being the perfect 1950s suburban housewife is shattered when an uncontrollable event changes her life forever. Destitute and left to fend for herself in a man's world, she searches her New England town unable to find a job. With nowhere to turn, Vivian takes the advice of her wisecracking best friend, Babs, and reluctantly becomes a Tupperware lady. Vivian struggles with low self-esteem as well as stage fright but with the support of Babs' lovesick brother, Stew, and the creator of Tupperware's Home Party Plan system, Brownie Wise, she may just find the strength to conquer her inner demons and take control of her life. A story of empowerment, Leftovers is a delectable romantic dramedy with an inspirational journey that reveals to us what can be achieved by using one's guts, determination and a little bit of a self-deprecating humor.

## Leftovers Details

Date : Published April 7th 2012 by Galaxias Productions

ISBN :

Author : Arthur Wooten

Format : Paperback 212 pages

Genre : Adult Fiction

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## From Reader Review Leftovers for online ebook

### David Hallman says

Such a Pleasure

Beginning Arthur Wooten's most recent novel "Leftovers" is like sitting on a shaded veranda drinking a gin and tonic watching a late summer sunset over the lake. All feels good with the world. The G&T is slipping down your throat so very smoothly. And yet, there's a slight bitterness to the gin that catches ever so lightly in the throat and the chilly breeze brushing your face forebodes night's arrival and summer's end.

Yes, it may feel initially that all is well with the world in "Leftovers" but Wooten subtly lifts the lid to tell a story that is rich in textures, some of which are a lovely pastel shade, but others of which are not.

As one progresses through the novel, it becomes increasingly clear that Wooten's writing in "Leftovers" is as assured and pitch perfect as ever. The characters radiate from the page, drawn with note-perfect dialogue and visually-rich description. The atmospherics of 1950s Americana life are evoked with attention to the smallest of details.

It is in the plotline that modulates back and forth between exhilaration and distress that Wooten demonstrates most convincingly his skill. The endearing story is leavened with the poignant humanity that we have come to appreciate from his earlier novels and short stories.

The pleasure in reading "Leftovers" is an indication of the professionalism of the writing. Arthur Wooten knows how to write. He makes it seem easy. Those of us who try to write, know it is not easy.

All of us as readers are the lucky beneficiaries of Wooten's impressive talent.

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### Mymcbooks says

My Review: I really enjoyed reading about Vivian Lawson, a 1950s suburban housewife. An inspirational journey about one woman who rose above marital problems and a heartless mother to become a very well known Tupperware lady.

Things started to fall apart one day for Vivian when she stayed up waiting for her cheating husband to return from work to celebrate their anniversary, only to turn up very late. In the morning, her husband Paul broke the news to her that he was leaving her for another woman.

Devastated and broke with the bank taking her house and unable to find work, Vivian found herself living with her best friend Babs and her brother Stew who suggested that she become a Tupperware lady.

This is a well written novel by Arthur Wooten, showing the strength of Vivian Lawson from heartbreak to redemption and finding true love. This novel is truly a leftover you just can't help but to pick it up again and again to read.

I highly recommend this book for every household with a woman living in it.

FTC Disclosure: I received a review copy of this book from the author in exchange for a fair and honest review. I was not monetarily compensated for my opinion in any way.

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### **Gregory Allen says**

I was lucky enough to read a galley copy of Leftovers...and I do mean lucky! Wooten has taken us to a place unlike the others in his novels. In 1954, Vivian Lawson is a down-on-her luck housewife living in a small New England town, who finds herself faced with a huge fork in her road at the mere age of 25. Wooten uses this world to launch into a true triumphant women's empowerment novel full of wonderful historical tidbits, delicious humor, and a cast of characters that pull you right in. It's that very quality in his writing that makes me so excited to crack open the latest Wooten book. His use of language and description always keeps me coming back for more. A Wooten story is just like leftovers in the fridge: you recall how good it was the first time and you're so glad you had some left to enjoy all over again.

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### **Arlena says**

Author: Author Wooten

Published By: Galaxias Productions

Age Recommend: Adult

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Raven Rating: 5

Blog Review For: Great Minds Think Aloud

Review:

"Leftovers: A Novel" by Author Wooten was truly a wonderful 1950's read. I laugh so hard at so many funny parts in this novel and let's not forget the drama. Could this new divorced and dead broke homemaker have hopes of obtaining self-respect, financial security and a real love selling guess what?" ... 'TUPPERWARE'

Vivian Lawson's thought she would be a perfect American suburban housewife but this was not to be...for

her husband had divorced her leaving her penniless. Vivian needed a job and nothing was available in this New England town so through her friend, Babs.... Vivian becomes a Tupperware Lady. Would Vivian be able to handle selling this? For she was very frightened and with Vivian's low self-esteem her friend, Barb and her brother Stew... 'along with the creator of Tupperware Home Party Plan system, Brownie Wise, was able to bring through the evil spirit that had her bond'..... Will Vivian be able to take complete charge of her own life?

"Leftovers: A Novel" was a story of a woman who is faced with bad mistakes but this person was able to build her sense of self esteem and come into her own person. Vivian was now having a meaning to her life. Coming from a marriage where there was no love, having a heartless mother .... now she has control of her life...coming from heartbreak, failure, to redemption, and then triumph of finding her true love. Now who was that? You will have to pick up this great read and find out how the author is able to put this together. It is a very interesting read. This novel is one that is hard to put down until you are finished.

The details that were delivered in this novel was simply off the chart.... making you feel that you are there in the auditorium at the Tupperware Jubilee .... the Wish Fairy....Valedictorian..... the visit to Brownie's home....deepest desire... the NY visit, buying a home and I am not telling any more! You will have to read this for yourself because it is such a good read.

Definitely the overall message was that by changing ones situation in life .... can become better for you... if you desire it.... but should you forget how you got there? I would definitely recommend "Leftovers" as a excellent read.

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### **Karli says**

If you want a super light, fluffy, fairy-tale of a story, Leftovers will satisfy your craving. After all, the plot is fast-paced and the happy ending is painfully predictable, but if you were hoping for a real feminist perspective on domestic life in the 1950s, this book might feel a little underwhelming and (ahem) stale. Wooten's story is like an empty Tupperware container - a good framework, but no substance. Ok. I'm finished with the plastic puns now!

Read full review here: <http://hookedbookworm.blogspot.com/2011/01/leftovers.html>

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### **Nikki says**

I won this in a Goodreads Giveaway

Overall, I thought Vivian's rise from the bottom was a fun story, but there was just something missing. I have no issues with short books, but with short books you need to do a lot in a short amount of time and I'm not sure this book did that quite as well as I would have liked. There were parts that for the length seemed to go on a bit too long and there were parts that felt cut short and weren't as developed as I wanted them to be.

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## Fran says

Leftovers

Author: Arthur Wooten

Reviewed by Fran Lewis

Perfection is what everyone needs to aspire to if you want to be just like Vivian Lawson Hayes. Imagine being the envy of the world, a perfect homemaker, perfect wife and always looks pristine. The tour of her house alone and her furniture would make you jealous and her lifestyle would make you too the envy of your neighborhood. But, when asked where her husband was she explained his job was demanding and often required being available 24/7. But, life is about to take a different turn for poor Vivian. But, this was all in her head or shall I say fantasy because in real life Vivian was anything but perfect and definitely did not keep a home the way it's described. Vivian was born to rich parents but her father cheated on her mother causing her to leave. Meeting Paul was great since he was handsome and into sports and she was rich and smart. But, when her father died she got a serious reality check. Never writing a will the money went straight to her mother who disliked her from the moment she took her first breath and wanted her to disappear. Giving her a pittance of the huge inheritance she was glad she finally married. This is where our sad story begins.

Vivian is out of place wherever she goes. Paul seems oblivious to her and when she finally takes a chance and creates a special breakfast for him on their anniversary present and all he ignores her. When Vivian looks in the mirror what she sees is anything but what she wants. Not that she is not pretty or capable of looking better she has just given up on life and her husband, Paul does not seem to care or notice. Going to one of her club meetings with her friends and to the dry cleaners we learn more about Vivian. She gets distracted easily, is not exactly driving a great car more like a 1944 clunker that barely starts and winds up almost hitting a neighbor with a young child crossing the street. Leftovers is the story of more than just food that is extraneous and put away. Leftovers is the story of a woman more like left over herself. Acceptance, being wanted and treated as being there and not invisible is all that Vivian wants. With a mother who hated her from the start and growing up in a cold environment with maids each addressed as a different number, Vivian never had the nurturing and love that most kids get.

Reality is something that sets in when we least expect it to. Vivian was living in her own world thinking that Paul was the perfect husband and justifying his late hours and lack of interest by making excuses to herself. But, when he does not come home on their wedding anniversary and never acknowledges it, Vivian decides to break her own rule and calls him at work. Paul is a Captain in the Police Department and she thinks he is out on an emergency. In reality the emergency was the woman he was seeing and cheating on Vivian with. But, like a good and loyal husband when confronted by someone else he goes home, satisfies his wife and then asks for a divorce. Now, how much more can our calm, cool and austere Vivian take? What she does not know is that her best friend Babs saw Paul and his latest conquest together in a bar and chose not to blab the news, well not until after her Tupperware parties. So, one Mexican Divorce and their life together was over and Vivian withdrew into quite a few deep shells.

Vivian did not handle the divorce in style. Instead she just ignored life, the world, her bills and herself. When going to the bank she learned just how far Paul went and what happened to their finances. Cleaned her out, left her with nothing, no job and the ones she wanted and tried to get would not hire a woman. Take a trip back in time with me to 1954 when jobs were scarce for women and equal meant a sign used in a math problem. Vivian never saw it coming because she was not paying attention. Her friend Babs even called it quits until one cold and snow filled day she found Vivian in the strangest place after losing her home, her car and her dignity. But, Vivian would learn the true meaning of friendship and what happens when things are down, your life can't get worse and you feel like nothing more than left over food. ?

What is the answer to her worries? Well: you might think they are only plastic containers but those of use that know better and have been to these parties know that Tupperware is great and solves many problems. Just burb it and preserve it is what we always say. So, let's learn more about selling Tupperware, how Babs brings some life back into Vivian and if she ever learns that one man named Paul is not worth giving up your life. But, added into the mix is one coldhearted mother who could care less and deserts her in a different way than Paul does. Will Vivian recoup and start living?

Leftovers is a story that tells what happens when the world is pulled out from under you worse than a huge rug and you find out that the life you have been living is one big lie. Remembering her youth and the cold environment her mother created for her and the mean and selfish woman she still is, it is amazing that Vivian can care about anyone or anything,

Vivian would learn that self-pity does not work and with the encouragement of Stew and Babs she would learn a lot about herself. One barn dance and some confidence instilled in herself she came out of her shell and a new Vivian emerged. Who would think that the key to her success would be Tupperware? The stories she told the women about her life, her cooking and her lack of organizational skills is hysterical. Admitting her husband left her because she could not cook funny but true. Self-esteem is hard to regain when you have been knocked down your whole life. But, Vivian is finally coming to terms with her life and had decided she is anything but Leftovers as her husband called her. Besides we all know as the author states that Leftovers taste better the next day and Vivian will definitely do better the next time.

Vivian's life was Tupperware. From creating her own platforms to selling products and doing multiple parties in a day Vivian proved to others and to herself that life goes on. Becoming top seller in one month to catching the business eye of the creator of the company Vivian was moving up to new heights that she never would have believed and revitalized in more ways than one. With the help of her two loyal best friends Babs and her brother Stew Vivian rose to the top of the company and much more. New wardrobe, extra perks and a new lease on life plus a new home Vivian did more than just star in the commercials for Tupperware she lived it. Along with Babs and Stew she goes on a roller coaster ride with many loops, curves and definitely ups and downs until the car reaches its final stop. When success reaches its highest pinnacle and Vivian becomes more than just a star and money is no longer a concern she is faced with some harsh realities and needs to step back and reassess her life before it's too late. One errant husband who tries blackmail to get what he wants. Two friends who helped her to get where she is today but get left in the dust or in a plastic container waiting to be reopened and remembered. What will the end result be? Will friendship, loyalty and love win out or will Vivian turn out to be just like her mother? Leftovers is the story of four people: Vivian, Babs, Stew and Irene each earning the title of leftover in some way. Stew feeling used and unwanted and forgotten when Vivian becomes successful and Babs too. Vivian a nuisance and responsibility her mother did not want and tossed aside like a side salad by her husband. One book many important issues. Perfection: is not what life is about: Accolades, adoration and applause can never take the place of family, friends and love. Leftovers are what someone prepares the day before for those they love and they are sealed in Tupperware of plastic container to serve to perfection the next day.

Author Arthur Wooten penned a novel with humor, joy, sadness and hope for those who have lost everything meet Vivian who decided to stand up for herself and get it all back. Take the journey back to the 1950's and see what happens when one woman decides to give a new meaning to the word Leftovers. This is one novel that will inspire everyone who ever felt left over.

Fran Lewis: Reviewer:

This book gets **FIVE LEFTOVERS IN A TUPPERWARE CONTAINER: WHO KNOWS WHAT TREASURES WERE PLACED INSIDE!**

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### **Nancy Silk says**

**"From Famine to Feast...This Is A Darn Good Story"**

This very entertaining story takes place back in the early 1950's, when women stayed home to take care of their homes, cook, raise children, and cater to their husbands. Vivian Lawson Hayes is married, has no children, and she is a total failure in meeting any of these tasks. She was a single child of rich parents, raised in a huge mansion, where four servants met the needs of the parents. Vivian only had one friend growing up ... another girl who had also been shunned and ignored, Babs. They remained good friends through adulthood. Her mother, Irene, never wanted children, resents Vivian, and she wants her out of the house when she becomes an adult. When her father passes away and the estate goes to Irene, she only gives Vivian a very small inheritance. Vivian soon marries Police Captain Paul Hayes, who is a failure as a husband, very unfaithful. He comes home late one night, missing dinner as usual, packs his bags and leaves her, getting a quickie divorce in Mexico. Vivian is alone, very depressed for days and weeks. She soon learns that Paul has taken all the bank funds, and she has little money for food, and no money for the mortgage. She finally winds up on the street, no car, with no place to go. But Babs and her brother Stew, no longer working in the police department, come to her rescue in more ways than one. I loved this story of mixed emotions, humor, and how Arthur Wooten totally describes life in the 50's to include famous people, music, dress styles, and dance parties. Many times I found myself laughing so hard, I could barely stop. Arthur Wooten is, indeed, a very gifted author who can poke you with laughter, as well as poke your heart to shed tears at times. This is a great story, don't miss out, read it.

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### **Kitty Austin says**

Book Title: "Leftovers"

Author: Arthur Wooten

Published By: Galaxias Productions

Age Recommended: 18+

Reviewed By: Kitty Bullard

Raven Rating: 5

Review: I have often wondered what it would have been like to live in the 50's. I've heard story's many times from my aunt's and grandmother about how Tupperware was started back then and having grown up in a dedicated Tupperware family when Arthur Wooten approached me with the chance to read and review his book I could not pass it up!

Poor Vivian Lawson! This lady went through hades and back from a loveless marriage to finding inner value with no choice but to learn to fend for herself, she turns to the one savior that has been an important household accessory for years. Her friend Bab's is hilarious and the kind of woman every destitute young woman needs for a friend.

I adored this story from start to finish and could not help but applaud Vivian for her strength and aptitude she was a wonderful heroine and I have decided I know need more Tupperware in my home! Kudo's to Arthur for a fantastic romantic comedy set in one of the greatest time periods ever!

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### **Shelleystrae at Book'd Out says**

Who knew that Tupperware could save more than leftovers? For abandoned 1950's housewife Vivian Lawson, Tupperware also saved her life. This warm and lighthearted novel is about a woman's journey from a timid, penniless divorcee to independent, successful woman. When her adulterous husband deserts her, Viv Lawson sinks into depression, eventually losing her home along with her dignity. Pulled back from the brink of utter despair by her best friend, Babs and Babs brother, Stew, she reluctantly finds herself helping them selling Tupperware, only to discover she has a knack for it and the plastic fantastic catapults Viv into a new, successful life.

There are few women in western society who do not have at least a piece or two of Tupperware in the cupboard. I still have bits and pieces inherited from my grandmother and mother's kitchens and the odd new product (though Tupperware is now prohibitively expensive). What we rarely consider is the impressive influence Tupperware had on women's lives upon its introduction post World War II. The company pioneered the party plan approach to sales, provided women with the opportunity to earn their own money by 'respectable' means and rewarded them with lavish celebration. Arthur Wooten uses this social catalyst as a clever and interesting framework for his story of a woman's emancipation.

I have to admit Leftovers not as polished as previous work I have read by Arthur Wooten, namely Birthday Pie. There is the odd copy error (though I was provided with an ARC that had not yet had its final screening) and the general writing style is not as smooth but his wry sense of humour is still evident and the characters are appealing.

A quick and easy read at just over 200 pages, Leftovers is an engaging and entertaining novel that successfully blends comedy and drama, with a hint of rosy nostalgia. If you have ever burped a salad bowl, then I recommend you give this a try.

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### **J.D. Holiday says**

'Leftovers' written by Arthur Wooten

LEFTOVERS is anything but leftovers! From beginning to end it has a neatly skilled and clever plot twist. You certainly don't need to have lived in 1950s America to enjoy this novel. The settings and mores are all there for you to see in this well-written story about life as it was back then.

No matter what decades you've live through you might have experience some of what Vivian has. Through a mix of drama and comedy you see Vivian, a sweet and kind person, rise above all that threatens to keep her down including marital problems and a heartless mother, come to realize she needs to do what she needs to do to control her own life and make it what she wants it to be.

We all know someone like her or have been where she has been, and like all of us, Vivian needs a good friend or two for support. She finds no better friends than the brother and sister duo of Stew and Babs. Babs is always ahead of the game and willing to share her knowledge with her childhood friend. While Stew just might be the right guy for Vivian. At first I didn't think Stew was the right guy, but slowly, long before Vivian knew, I came to see that he was a perfect one for her.

Having read other stories by this author I have to say again Arthur Wooten knows storytelling.

~JD Holiday

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### **Michelle Churchill says**

I always love reading Wooten's books, but I couldn't get enough of Leftovers. I devoured every page.

Just like the Tupperware she sells, Vivian Lawson is destined to be an American icon. In this tale of heartbreak, failure, redemption, love and triumph, Arthur Wooten's gift for storytelling makes Leftovers a delicious read.

I can't wait to read it again!

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### **Books-treasureortrash says**

Book review: 1 treasure box

Vivian is married to the man of her dreams, but her life is far from perfect. Before long everything falls apart, including Vivian and it is up to her to pull things together, with a little help from her friends.

Arthur Wooten has written several novels in a number of different genres. Leftovers is a drama told in a third person narrative from the point of view of the main protagonist, Vivian Lawson and the story takes place in America during the 1950s.

The story starts out in a unique and interesting manner, detailing Vivian's dream. The dream, how it ends and what it represents is a reflection of the entire book. I thought it fitting that Mr. Wooten dedicated the book to his father, a pioneer in the plastics industry, since Tupperware saved the day. Vivian is the poor little rich girl, literally. She has a cold, uncaring mother who did not teach her how to be a woman and now Vivian is on her own struggling to survive.

This is a standalone book with a predictable story. The book was not very exciting and I pretty much knew

how it was going to end after reading the first few chapters. Overall the story is heartwarming as Vivian matures into a successful, confident woman.

For more of my reviews go to <http://books-treasureortrash.com>

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### **Carey Parrish says**

Arthur Wooten has done it again. His latest novel, "Leftovers," is a tribute to the American housewife of the 1950's while also giving a tip of the hat to what the decades to come had in store for the modern woman.

Vivian Lawson is a woman left alone by a life changing event that robs her of her husband, leaving her to own devices during a time when the concept of an independent woman was exclusive to only a few of her contemporaries. Struggling to put her life back together, and make a living in the process, Vivian takes the advice of her outrageous friend Babs and starts selling Tupperware in her quiet New England town.

Along the way to self sustainment, Vivian finds herself building her sense of self esteem and coming into her own as a woman. Babs' brother Stew is right by her side along the journey and as Vivian finds herself as a woman will she also find a new meaning in life?

The incomparable Arthur Wooten, author of such hits as "Birthday Pie," "Fruit Cocktail," "On Picking Fruit," and "Arthur Wooten's Shorts," has created yet another timeless classic with Leftovers. This is Mr. Wooten at his best. A must read for everyone.

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### **Claire says**

This is a delightful book as a whole. I never normally add that think of talk to my sweeping statements but in this instance it's true. Broken down, it's almost spilt into 3 parts and I have to say the middle part was my favourite, when she moves into Babs place. At the start of the book, I feel like she is just really weak, can't cook (caused she's scared to), doesn't really clean, lacks self confidence. Paul is just a... a... there is no word for him. What he does to her. No wonder her spirit has been crushed. Thankfully, Vivian does pick herself back up and moves on, She really comes into her own and I was proud of her for doing that and then I cringed when she took it too far. I almost yelled "Get over yourself!" at the book! Stew was so lovely. I am not going to spoil the end but I am pleased with the ending and I love that the coined term "Leftovers" finally gets the laugh it deserves.

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