



The Lightness of Dust (The Meronymy #1)

M.L. Weaver

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Librarian's Note: This is an alternate-cover edition for ISBN 9780988232440 — The Lightness of Dust

Samuel Freeman, caretaker of the Persephone Music Hall in 1940 Seattle, dreams of the day his art will move him beyond the life that holds him. Lily Ostendorf, a beautiful foreign violinist, encounters Sam's work in war-ravaged Europe and crosses the ocean to meet him. One night at the symphony unites Sam and Lily in a love story that resonates through the ages.

From ancient Anatolia—where a gifted young healer fights to marry her true love despite her father's wishes—to modern-day Northern California—where Professor Jake Morgan struggles to save his marriage from the schemes of an alluring graduate student—the thread woven by Sam and Lily draws lives together and summons an unspeakable fate.

Follow the thread as mortal cares scatter with The Lightness of Dust.

The Lightness of Dust (The Meronymy #1) Details

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Author : M.L. Weaver

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From Reader Review The Lightness of Dust (The Meronymy #1) for online ebook

Tona says

It is hard for a reader to synch 3 stories together while they are reading. This book started off as 3 different stories and in the end the story flowed together. I think that if the author had not done it this way, the story would not have resonated they way that it did. I had mixed emotions through out the story. To me each character brought out a different aspect of emotion. It was so easy to get wrapped up in this story. I am grateful that I was given the chance to read this book.

Bethany says

First of all, this is my first 'First-reads' book and I'm delighted at having this opportunity (thanks Goodreads :)

No pressure huh!

This book was deep, man. If you like paranormal, twisty-turny timelines and complicated characters then I recommend reading this book!

A more complete review (rating subject to change) will be completed on completing my mammoth pile of lab reports *sigh*

ANNND... they are complete, as are my exams for the year! *breathes a sigh of relief*

Okay, as before, this book is deep - I mean, you delve in and you don't resurface for a while. Which is cool. I liked the interlacing plotlines and the characters were relatable. A tad slow in areas but I think that made it all the more readable.

If you get the opportunity to read this book, definitely give it a go.

Autumn says

I received this book to give an honest review.

I am giving this book 4 1/2 stars. Even though I did enjoy it, it first started off a bit slow and then as soon as I got into the story it would go into another time frame. At first this did kind of bug me because as soon as it was getting good, bam I was dealing with another time frame and someone else's story.

After about the fifth chapter I truly understood it all and it ended up being a good story. You start of with the character Kera who is a healer and the her love Telamon who is a fisherman. When Kera's love goes away her father who is very mean ends up selling her to some priest who ends up not being this good priest. Kera

Then you get into the life of Sam he is a struggling artist who works in a music theater. One day he decides

to watch one of the concerts and meets a very beautiful woman who plays the violin. His life seems to change for the better when he meets her. But yet he goes off to War World 2, what will happen to their love? Will it stand the test of war?

The last person in this book is a young professor, him and his wife are perfect for each other. She has stood by his side while he has put endless amounts of schooling into becoming a professor and going for his goals. He ends up meeting a young woman who wants to be his undergrad, but yet what are her intentions? Will Jake's marriage last with this new undergrad who may or may not take over his job?

All these stories are intertwined in some way. They all have a certain person in common even though it is different time periods. The way everything came together was pretty cool. I do see myself reading more from this author in the future.

Tracey says

"Follow the thread as mortal cares scatter with The Lightness of Dust."

This was a strange one. I received it as a LibraryThing member giveaway (thank you), and had some trouble getting my hands on it (my fault, I'm sure), and pestered the author because the premise sounded fascinating ... and ... I ... er...

The book description does a pretty good job of making the story sound alluring. But it also made it sound like there is more of a flow between and among the three story lines. And I just didn't see it. Those three threads, as mentioned in that synopsis, center around a couple named Sam and Lily in the 40's, a young woman in ancient Anatolia, and a professor named Jake in the present, and that right there felt a little off. I don't recall if there was an explanation as to why the centuries between "ancient Anatolia" and 1940 were not included; obviously it would have been awful to have hundreds of threads tangled together in the tale, but it might have been very cool if there had been glimpses into other times.

My middling rating of this may be, at least partly, a reflection of the fact that the book was very different from what I expected rather than the quality of the book itself. I didn't like it; it centered on an almost mythical character who combined unexplained great power and Captain Jack Harkness-like refusal to die with a cranky petulance that makes Honey Boo Boo seem like a model child. (I don't know, is Honey Boo Boo really that bad? I'm going only by hearsay here...) (Wait, never mind, I don't want to know.)

There, that's my problem with the story. She is petulant, and vicious, but there's no pattern to it. In the 40's she seduces Sam, acts as his muse, and breaks his heart – she is like a Greek goddess, unknowable but desirable, dangerous but of great benefit to a man she likes, until she grows tired (or wary of the fact that she is not aging visibly as she ought to be). Then in the present she works her way into Jake's life, and displays a very different personality – and both are very different from the original one she owns in ancient Anatolia. And none of them are pleasant. She has reason to be bitchy in her original life (ill treatment and youth), but the modern-day personality is so different from, and so much more vindictive for very little reason than, the 1940's persona, it's just ... odd. This falls into the category of "I wish I liked this more than I do."

Jimilyn says

I thoroughly enjoyed watching the tales of the three different eras weave together to a conclusion that was quite unexpected. It was warm, lonely, sweet, and chilling all at the same time. I had to take some time after reading it to let it soak in fully. A good read.

InD'tale Magazine says

The alternating stories are extremely well-written and self-contained with well-developed characters that jump off the page.

Read full review in the 2013 June issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Laura DeLuca says

The Lightness of Dust is a unique and beautifully written tale that weaves together three time periods seamlessly. Kere is a young healer who wants to marry the love of her life. But while he sails off to find his fortune, her father sells her to a shady priest who wants to profit from her gifts. Sam is a struggling artist working as a handyman at a music hall. His life is simple until he meets an exotic violist who awakens feelings in him he never knew existed and takes his art to a whole new level. But will their love affair survive the separation when he enlists to fight in World War II? In present day California a young professor takes on a brilliant grad-student who wants to take over his lab and maybe ruin his marriage.

Even as stand alone tales, all three of these stories held my attention and kept me turning the pages. When you learn how their lives are all connected, its simply mind-blowing. The book combines powerfully written prose, well defined characters, and subtle paranormal/fantasy elements that explode in the last fifty or so pages. I love how each different time period was so well researched and how all the characters were so well developed. But most impressive was the completely original plot that was unlike any other novel I've read to date. This book has something for everyone--historical buffs, fantasy addicts, and even romance junkies will love it. It is definitely a five-star read all the way.

Kristin says

So I won this in a giveaway on Goodreads. I started reading it and it didn't really hook me at all. But I figured I would try to read it all the way through, thinking maybe somewhere in the middle it would turn around. I kept waiting for something to happen. I finally finished it, taking much longer than I normally would for a book of its size and was really disappointed with the ending. The disjointed nature of the book, switching from one character/time period to another was at first confusing, then kind of annoying. I'm sorry, just being honest about how I felt while reading the book. I guess it just wasn't for me.

Linda says

M. L. Weaver spins a story that captures your heart as you get involved in the lives of the characters. It starts in an ancient city with a fifteen year old girl with a gift of healing, then in the 1930's at the cusp of world war I when a janitor at a theater and gifted painter meets Lily as she played her violin but Sam Freeman knew that his country needed him and promised Lily that he would return yet time after time when he saw the soldiers dying he saw Lily but thought he was losing his mind. Sam returned, but Lily wasn't there and he married another woman but never gave her his heart. Years later Sam became all the rage in New York and when his wife died he knew that his children didn't care for him and he was all alone. every time a performance was played with the music that he met Lily, he would attend in hopes that she'd be there, he was an old man in his nineties and foolishly thought that he would see her again.....

The story concludes with Jake and Elyse, a young couple in love, but Jake is determined to get a professorship and they move to California and he gets involved with an aspiring student who amazes him of her brilliance and what she could accomplish as they set up a lab, Amanda is astonishing with her knowledge and Jake is impressed until she stalks him!

Dianne says

M. L. Weaver, author of *The Lightness of Dust*, has created a fantasy that ties three seemingly separate stories into one with a mystical quality about it!

Ever wonder about the ancient gods that early civilizations prayed to? Do their attempts to answer prayers cause more harm than good? Is there an eternal domino effect?

Young Kere, a gifted healer, whose greatest value to her father is how much he will be paid for selling her into service at the temple, is in love with Telamon, a poor fisherman. Telamon must go to sea for an unknown time and Kere must go into service. Have gods answered her prayers in a way unknown to her? Will she do something to anger the gods?

A desperate mother wishes for her newborn son to gain fame and wealth. Are the gods listening? Samuel Freeman is a young man with the ability to paint truly great art. Unfortunately, to most, he is just a lowly handyman working in Seattle during the end of the Depression, barely earning enough to survive. Indulging himself, he purchased a ticket to a symphony playing at the theatre he worked in. On stage was a beautiful and gifted violinist who became his heart's desire. Lily was a mystery to Sam, seeming able to control events in Sam's life, steering him in a predestined direction. When World War II broke out, Sam did his duty and went off to war. Believing he would come home to the waiting arms of Lily kept him strong. Would she be there?

Jake and Elyse have lived through the trials of being a young married couple struggling while Jake finishes college. He now is a professor striving to seek tenure and security. Their life together still has bumps and hurdles, all of which Jake feels will go away "in the future." Amanda, a student assistant enters their lives, almost too good to be true, extremely efficient, intelligent, seeming able to intuit Jake's every professional need, but there is something different about her. Something frightening and dark and she wants something from Jake, at any cost.

Kere, Sam and Jake's lives have a common thread that has been unraveling for centuries. Are the gods through with them yet or is there more to come?

M. L. Weaver has the ability to change his writing style to suit the character in the background he is creating. Flipping back and forth amongst the three main characters, giving only bits of information kept me guessing where this was going in a good way! Trying to guess the outcome kept me hooked! I could feel the centuries

and decades change with each character's dialogue while feeling the sea mist with Kere, the drizzle with Sam and hearing the sights and sounds surrounding Jake. Towards the end, the genre almost seems to morph into a Sci-fi "Twilight Zone" with its horrific plot shift. Throughout all, the dark feel of this novel begs the question: Does understanding come to us after death when all that is left is dust?

Kathy says

The author has woven together three different lives of three different people from three different eras into a fascinating tale. In an ancient world, a healer tries to unite with her true love. In Depression era Seattle, a young man tries to reunite with his love, a foreign violinist through music. In modern California, a professor tries to keep his lab from the clutches of an overly ambitious lab assistant. In a marvelous way, the author has managed to interweave these three tales into one beautiful story, the reader will find a fascinating read, and he does it very well. At first, I thought I might not like the book, until I became enthralled with the lives of the characters. The story moves seamlessly through the times, as the characters take on their personas and the settings ring true in every case. This book demonstrates the author's mastery of his craft. If you enjoy reading novels that are fantasy, history and modern literature mixed in well together, this novel is one you. I received this from Library Thing to read and review.

Kim says

The complete review is posted here: <http://quintessentiallybookish.com/20...>

Overall Thoughts:

I really enjoyed this book. I finished the entire book in less than a day because I was so curious to find out how everything was connected. The three stories intertwine in such a way that each is dependent on the others while still remaining complete in its own. I read through it quickly, because I was so curious to learn how they all fit together while being so different. Despite each story taking place in wildly different times and settings, they all felt authentic, both in language and characterization.

Characters:

Each story has one particular main character. The first one we meet is Kere, a young girl with a strange gift in a very ancient land. I immediately sympathized with Kere. Her story is a difficult one and she's a very likeable character, even when she is making mistakes. I spent most of the book worried for her, though. She faces many challenges and dangers, romantically, religiously, and personally.

The focus of the second story is Sam. It focuses on his love story (both with a woman and with art), but we still see glimpses of him through the years, well into his old age. Sam is so interesting I almost wish there was a book entirely about him. Though his story appears to end with this book, I'm hoping he'll show up again later in the series.

The third story focuses on Jake Morgan, a professor, and his relationship with his wife and his grad assistant. It took me awhile to warm up to Jake. He's a jerk to his wife, a jerk to his assistant, and he doesn't realize what huge mistakes these are until it's too late. His story is the least complete, however, which gives him

opportunity to grow in future books.

Setting:

Weaver is great at subtle descriptions. He gives such a clear picture of each setting for each story, but he manages to do it without resorting to large blocks of descriptive text. Instead he weaves the description into the action so that they compliment each other. The reader is able to really see the Persephone or the seaside of Anatolia.

Writing Style:

Weaver manages a consistent style throughout the book, while still giving each character his or her own voice. Kere sounds just as much like a confused teen girl as Jake does a modern man. His writing can also be flowery, such as when the Goddesses appear or stark when Jake has an internal debate. He's a chameleon when writing, but it's still obvious that one writer is constructing the story. It's a great trick for the structure of the books.

B.D. Morris says

Wow. I just finished Weaver's novel and already I can't get the story out of my head. Weaver does a fantastic job of weaving together 3 seemingly separate stories into one seamless plot. I would give this 4.5/5 stars, but because there are no half stars, I went ahead and gave it all 5.

In the novel we are introduced to three different stories, each taking place in three different time periods. The novel opens thousands of years ago with Kere, a dark haired, beautiful young woman awaiting the return of her new husband from his fishing trip. Everyday she climbs atop the cliff overlooking the sea and keeps a vigilant eye out for his return and waits for news of him, hoping that he will return before her abusive and greedy father can sell her into the service of the dubious priesthood. She knows that the priesthood will pay a large sum to her father in order to obtain control over her and her gift of healing. Soon her worst fears are realized and she finds herself in the service of the priesthood, who in the name of the gods, commit atrocities against the towns people in order to line their own pockets with precious metals. When a natural disaster threatens the harbor town, Kere finds herself faced with a mysterious stranger who offers her a terrifying choice that will change her life, and the lives of those she loves, forever.

At the same time, we are introduced to Samuel Freeman, an poor artists living in 1940's Seattle. Working as a maintenance man in the local theater to pay the bills, Sam meets mysterious and vivacious Lily, a beautiful blond woman who has sojourned all the way from Europe to Seattle to commission Sam to paint her portrait. But she does not want her portrait to be as she currently is, instead she wants Sam to paint her as she was when she was a young girl. As Sam endeavors to provide her with the seemingly impossible, they fall in love and spend their days wrapped up in passion and the joy of each others company. World War II breaks out and Sam decides to enlist, but before he leaves he presents Lily with her final portrait. Even though Sam can't explain what drove him to paint a portrait of what appears to be someone other than Lily, when he presents the image of a young, dark haired girl standing atop a cliff overlooking a harbor, seemingly waiting for something, Lily begins to cry and tells him it is perfect.

Meanwhile, in the current time, we find a young couple, Jake and his wife Elyse, who just moved to a new city because Jake was offered a tenure track professorship position at the local university. As Jake tries to find balance in this new stage of life, a bright young graduate student named Amanda bounces into his academic life. The lively and intelligent red head quickly makes herself a valuable member of Jake's

research. As the months wear on, Jake finds his marriage soon crumbling due to his lack of time at home and he makes the mistake of drinking his troubles away and making a pass at Amanda one night as she works late in the lab. Amanda rebuffs his advances and Jake immediately regrets his mistake but Amanda's demeanor has an abrupt change and she soon wiggles her way into his home life and befriends his wife.

After a fight with his wife finds him locked out of the bedroom one night, Jake finds Amanda in his home, both unexpected and uninvited. While her words are calm and her actions patient, Jake is able to read between the lines and hear the veiled threats Amanda makes toward his wife. In an effort to protect the one he loves most, Jake attacks Amanda with an iron fire poker, knocking her down in a pool of blood that gushes forth from her head. But Amanda merely gets up unharmed from the confrontation and gives Jake a mysterious warning before leaving his house. Convinced that he is facing something other than human, Jake flees with his wife in an attempt to escape Amanda, but they are unsuccessful. As his wife finally begins to believe Jake about Amanda, she has a miscarriage and is rushed to the hospital. In the midst of the terror and excitement at the hospital, Amanda appears and offers him a terrifying choice that will change his life, and the lives of those he loves, forever.

This is a very well written novel. There are some things I would have preferred to have better explained in the novel, such as why does the choice always come with tragedy that is gleefully administered (what twists the characters into this)? And the start is a bit slow, but trust me, just stick with it. Overall, I would highly recommend this book. I can't wait to read the next one!

Angie Lisle says

The story is told through three thread lines, each with it's own cast of characters in different settings. It took a while for the threads to weave together but this prevented me from guessing where the story was headed.

I enjoyed the supernatural twist that ties all the threads together but the prose is a little too poetic for me and every character is dramatic, a bit soap-opera in a fantasy scenario.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a review.

A Voracious Reader (a.k.a. Carol) says

4 stars

Full review in June issue of InD'tale Magazine.
