

Small Press Bookwatch: September 2018
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The Fiction Shelf

Love, Loss, and Lagniappe

Richard Robbins

Evolved Publishing

<https://evolvedpub.com>

9781622530434, \$14.95, 208pp, www.robbinsbooks.com

Synopsis: Life is good for Dr. Drew Coleman, a successful young eye surgeon living in Uptown New Orleans, and he knows it. Having met and married his beautiful medical school classmate, Kate, the two settle happily into the routine of raising their two young daughters.

Drew's charmed life is soon shattered by devastating news, causing him to go on a ten-year transcontinental journey of self-discovery, during which he explores the nature of God and Man, the divine inspiration for many of New York's landmarks and artistic treasures, and the relationship between the found and the lost souls passing on the street. He meets a number of memorable characters, including the young blue-haired runaway, Blue, who renounced her given name when forced to leave her Minnesota home with her girlfriend, Anna.

In time, he discovers and explains the scientific basis for the meaning of life, and is finally found, or finds himself, setting the stage for a bittersweet and memorable ending.

Critique: "Love, Loss, and Lagniappe " is all the more impressive when considering that author Richard Robbins' debut as a novelist. Written with a genuine flair for originality, Robbins has created a cast of distinctive characters deftly embedded in a narrative driven, exceptionally engaging story that holds the readers fully engaged attention from beginning to end. While very highly recommended, especially for community library Contemporary General Fiction, it should be noted for personal reading lists that "Love, Loss, and Lagniappe" is also available in a digital book format (Kindle, \$3.99, www.amazon.com).