

One

Was life fair? Not in the least. Not when you worked your ass off for everything you've ever dreamed of and *poof*, in an instant, with one sentence...it was gone!

Life doesn't always work out the way we want. No matter what you've done or how you've done it, something without a doubt gets in the way. You could spend days, weeks, months, even years working for the things you want out of life, only for it to be taken from you as if your dreams and schemes never existed. As if you had never tried at all...

It's funny how life seems to work out the opposite of what we want. Why bother to dream at all if they never come to fruition? *But*, if we don't have our dreams and goals to motivate and guide us, where would we be in this world? Lost, stumbling aimlessly, and not driven by desire, blood, sweat, and tears!

We've all heard the phrase, "*Life isn't fair*," so why are we so defeated when things don't turn out our way? When everything seems to fall apart? Shouldn't we just keep trying? "*If you fall down, get back up, dust yourself off, and try again.*"

But what if...*just to be fair in this unfair world*...what if we weren't meant to have those dreams at all? What if they were only to teach us something we didn't see in ourselves? What if there was something better than our dreams waiting for us on the path of life?

Reviews of FAMILY SECRETS

It was a beautifully written book about one woman's struggle with breast cancer, but also to rebuild a relationship with her son. FAMILY SECRETS squeezed at my heart... numerous times. It was hard to put down as I wanted to know if Alexis would survive the cancer, and if Colton would eventually let go of his father who had died, and rebuild a relationship with his mother. Well done, Donna M. Zadunajsky!

In "Family Secrets" Donna M. Zadunajsky has again weaved a plot so full of twists and turns, loss and triumph, suspense, romance, and the deep emotions of a family in denial that it keeps you highly intrigued and guessing up until the final sentence. Much as she did in her previous novel, "Not Forgotten." Donna is a true storyteller who is masterful in creating the element of surprise and achieving superb realism. The best news yet, however, is that "Family Secrets" is the first in Zadunajsky's new "Second Chances" Series. When an author captures the imagination of the reader in so many heartfelt ways, "Second Chances" are never far away, if you can survive the upheavals in your life!-Deborah A. Bowman Stevens, author and Editor-in-Chief for Clasic Consultants Publishing, Inc.

“Secrets and Second Chances” Book 1

Family Secrets

Donna M. Zadunajsky

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Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

DEDICATION

To
my
dear

friend and
second mom,
Ellen Meade.

Thank you for all the
love and guidance you've
given me in all the years we've
known each other. Cancer wasn't
kind to you. It wasn't a friend that
came to visit, but the kind that came
and took you away from everyone that
loves you. You somehow beat breast can-
cer and then was dealt with a cancerous
Squamous cell in your brain. And last,
you were diagnosed with pancreatic can-
cer stage three. You're always in my
heart and in my thoughts. I love
you and miss you more
than you know!

DEDICATION

*This book goes to my best friend
Gillian Fisher. God brought us together
when I needed you the most! Now, I can't
imagine my life without you. I'm really
happy to have the kind of friendship
I have with you. Because my life
would be a lonely mess with-
out you. You're my best
friend, I love you and
miss you more than
you'll ever
know*

!



Part I

Every great dream begins with a dreamer.

*Always remember, you have within you the strength,
the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to
change the world...*

Harriet Tubman

*It is not the strongest of the species that survives,
Nor the most intelligent that survives.
It is the one that is the most adaptable to change...*

Charles Darwin