Michele Leigh Greene Challenges the Traditional Grief Rulebook With a Raw New Voice on Loss

In Welcome to the World's Worst Club, Greene steps out from behind her award-winning fiction pen name to share a raw, honest new voice on grief.

PALM BEACH, FL, UNITED STATES, September 9, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Grief has long been packaged in stages, timelines and carefully chosen phrases meant to make loss easier to explain. Author and publisher Michele Leigh Greene is taking a different approach: stop telling people how they are supposed to grieve and start allowing them to experience what grief actually looks like.

> "Grief doesn't need another rulebook. It needs honesty, room to be messy, and permission to laugh when laughter is the thing that gets you through."
>
> *Michele Leigh Greene*

Her new nonfiction book, Welcome to the World's Worst Club: A Raw, Unfiltered, Surprisingly Funny Companion Through Grief, draws from Greene's own experiences with profound loss and the often awkward, absurd and deeply human moments that followed.

The book does not offer a five-step path to healing. It does not promise closure. Instead, Greene writes about the things that rarely make it into traditional grief literature — inappropriate laughter, terrible things well-meaning people say, anger, confusion, funeral disasters, family dynamics and the strange moments that become funny only years later.

"When grief leaves people without the words, I want to offer the ones no one else is saying," Greene said. "I'm not here to tell anyone how to grieve. I'm sitting beside them saying, 'This is awful. You're allowed to laugh. You're allowed to be angry. You're allowed to have no idea what you're doing.'"

For Greene, writing the book also meant stepping out from behind the pen name Constance Vaughn, under which she built her fiction identity. Vaughn's novel A Dream Takes Flight received a Literary Titan Award Silver Award establishing Greene's work in fiction before she chose to publish this deeply personal book under her own name.

“Fiction gave me a place to tell stories,” Greene said. “This book required me to tell the truth as myself.”
That message is beginning to travel well beyond Palm Beach. Welcome to the World’s Worst Club has appeared through booksellers in the United States and international markets, including listings in Switzerland and South Korea, reflecting what Greene believes is a broader readiness to reconsider the language surrounding grief.

At the center of the book is a simple premise: grief is not a problem to solve.

Greene writes from lived experience rather than clinical authority. After losing people central to her life, she found that traditional grief books often did not reflect the emotional contradictions she was actually experiencing.



Author Michele Leigh Greene with her new book, Welcome to the World’s Worst Club: A Raw, Unfiltered, Surprisingly Funny Companion Through Grief.

“Some days grief is devastating,” Greene said. “Other days something happens that is so completely ridiculous you laugh in spite of yourself. Both can be true at the same time.”

Published by Palm Beach Proper Publishing, the book is part memoir, part companion and part challenge to the cultural expectation that grief should look dignified, linear or predictable.

Greene is expanding the conversation beyond the book through interviews, media appearances and future projects focused on grief, loss and the experiences people are often reluctant to discuss publicly.

Her goal is not to redefine grief for everyone. It is to make more room for people to define it for themselves.

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