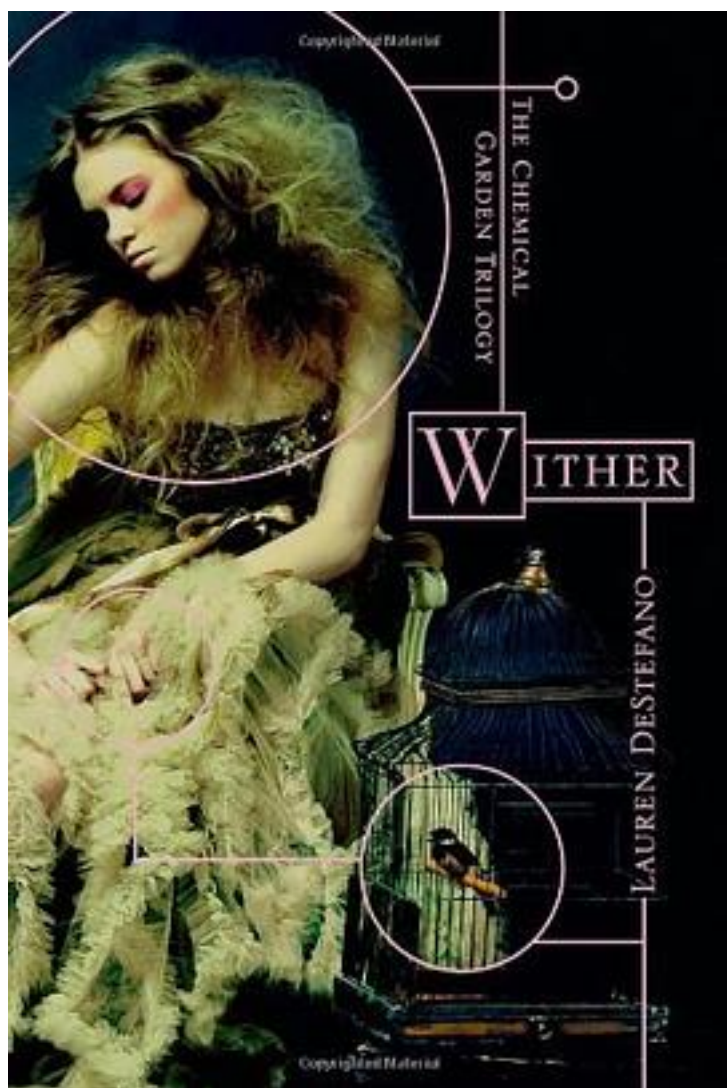


# Wither



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By age sixteen, Rhine Ellery has four years left to live. A botched effort to create a perfect race has left all males born with a lifespan of 25 years, and females a lifespan of 20 years--leaving the world in a state of panic. Geneticists seek a miracle antidote to restore the human race, desperate orphans crowd the population, crime and poverty have skyrocketed, and young girls are being kidnapped and sold as polygamous brides to bear more children. When Rhine is sold as a bride, she vows to do all she can to escape. Yet her husband, Linden, is hopelessly in love with her, and Rhine can't bring herself to hate him as much as she'd like to. He opens her to a magical world of wealth and illusion she never thought existed, and it almost makes it possible to ignore the clock ticking away her short life. But Rhine quickly learns that not everything in her new husband's strange world is what it seems. Her father-in-law, an eccentric doctor bent on finding the antidote, is hoarding corpses in the basement; her fellow sister wives are to be trusted one day and feared the next; and Rhine has no way to communicate to her twin brother that she is safe and alive. Together with one of Linden's servants, Gabriel, Rhine attempts to escape just before her seventeenth birthday. But in a world that continues to spiral into anarchy, is there any hope for freedom?

作者介绍:

劳伦·迪斯特法诺

毕业于位于美国康涅狄格的阿尔伯图斯·马格努斯学院，获得英语文学学士学位。《凋谢》是她的第一部小说，也是“时光新娘”三部曲的第一部。

美国西蒙与舒斯特出版集团总编看了《凋谢》的初稿后，大为赞叹，立刻花50万美金天价签下了她。目前，“时光新娘”系列已经卖出多国版权，将陆续与各国读者见面。

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