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He thought he could read her mind... until he read her diary.

David thought he knew Joanna. After twenty-five years, why wouldn't he? But when he finds the journals she's kept through their marriage, he discovers a woman with secrets... a woman he's losing--and only now does he discover why.

A profoundly intimate portrait in a time when the meaning of marriage has irrevocably changed for us all.

Joanna's Husband and David's Wife Details

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From Reader Review Joanna's Husband and David's Wife for online ebook

Julie says

The set-up is a bit contrived, woman keeps journal of marriage and gifts it to eldest daughter then husband reads journal and adds his opinions in decades later...but the author does a great job creating truly believable characters. They are definitely not perfect, not always nice, and don't always make perfect choices but it does make for interesting reading. I give it three stars because I got frustrated with the characters sometimes, wanting them to stop whining or being controlled, but the fact that I felt that means the author did a great job creating characters that seem so real.

JayeL says

One of the things I liked about this book was the journal format. Joanna left David and left her journal behind. He reads it in an effort to understand what is happening and decides to make his own comments on her take on events. I don't agree with reading anyone's journal regardless of circumstances, but it makes for good reading.

LittleDeadRedGoddessPersephone says

I have always liked this book. The first time I read it I was 17 and had no idea what being an adult and being in a real relationship was about. Each time I read it, and, it has been years I understand the book more I enjoyed this book a lot. I do have to admit that each time I read it I find David more and more unlikable and wonder why Johanna doesn't just walk out at the beginning!

Yaffa Shira says

Read it so long ago, but liked it.

Niffer says

I picked up this book solely based on the title. I really didn't know what to expect, but I enjoyed the book a great deal. I felt very much involved, like I was David, reading Joanna's journal, being blindsided by her views, feeling a little lost... I feel as though the author did a good job of making Joanna's journal feel very day to day, whereas David's responses were much more "in the moment" looking back at what had happened and how he'd viewed things differently.

It's been years since I read this book but it's one that I sometimes consider looking for and rereading.

Carol says

shows the total lack of communication in a marriage - husband was an ass and wasn't too fond of the wife either - they deserved each other LOL

Charlotte says

This was an interesting read, going to the heart of how well we can really know other people, even people we are married to.

As a husband reads the diary of his wife of 25 years, he is astonished to see their relationship from her perspective and learn just how much she kept from him, and what she thought of events he either doesn't remember, or remembers for entirely different reasons.

The things David and Joanna don't say to each other take on real significance, and what they do say to each other has different meanings for both of them. How we perceive events through the lens of our own experience and forget that others are doing the same but not coming to the same conclusions is the main theme of this book, and it is very well written over the course of their relationship, from meeting in the early 60's to the event that precipitates David's reading of Joanna's diary in the 80's.

You get the feeling that Joanna and David each had their own marriage to the other, and failure to communicate honestly leads to their very disparate views of what should be the same thing in most respects (not all).

Varsha Suman says

A brutally honest and disturbingly accurate portrayal of marriage. It will stay with you, urging you to look closer at your own relationships. The part I liked best about the book was how real the characters and the struggles seemed to me, how much I could relate to them despite the time and setting of the book.

Kathleen says

Absolutely one of my favorite books. Something in this book hit home and I could relate to the characters intimately.

Vishü Krocha says

A very unique book.

Rachel says

It was ok. I would have felt better if the premise had not been two parents sharing these thoughts with their daughter. At any age, children don't need, and can be damaged by, this much information about their parents. Definitely an emotional book.

Tracie Sneed says

Worth the read.

Yna Fempia Paez says

It took me a while to finish reading the book that's why I gave it 3 stars instead of 4. I like the story. It's just that the entries were on a day-to-day basis and reading this book is like taking time to live the couple's life and not just see their perspective and honestly, I don't think I even have enough time for my own life :P But in the end, the book was really good and well organized. Sometimes funny or annoying, most of the time touching and heartwarming. :)

M says

I can't remember the last time a book made me this angry. I rooted passionately for the couple, Joanna and David, to end their miserable marriage and found myself utterly disgusted with both of them (for this reason it gets two and not one stars, because, hey, it got me feeling).

Essentially, after years of submissive marriage to her tempermental, selfish, immature 'artiste' husband, Joanna has finally had it (tho so many times she almost left him and didn't such that when she finally does I'm like, that's it, because of that argument? How anticlimactic - you had so many better reasons for the last twenty years!) and David finds her diary and discovers who his wife has been this whole time and adds his own stupid commentary. By the end of the work what you have is a marriage that makes no sense and the two saddest people to ever come across in literature , barring perhaps A Doll's House, and I wanted to slap them both very hard.

Lois says

I read this because it was recommended by my friend, Saurell. I did not care for it, but liked the names for the characters.
