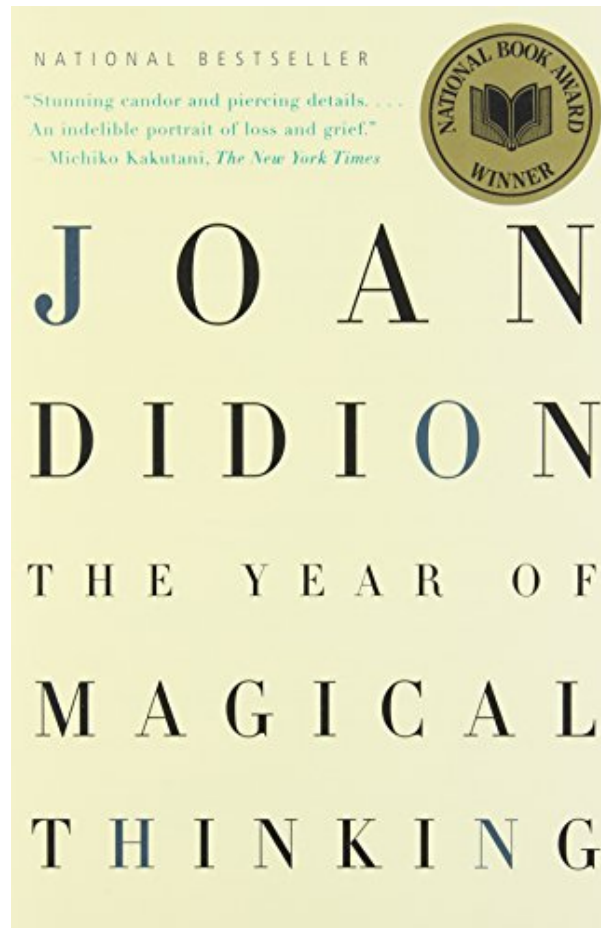


THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING BY JOAN DIDION



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"Stunning candor and piercing details. . . .
An indelible portrait of loss and grief."
— Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*



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From Publishers Weekly

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From one of America's iconic writers, a stunning book of electric honesty and passion. Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage--and a life, in good times and bad--that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child.

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Features

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A Klidoscope of death and grieving

By M. Steinbach

Joan Didion after the first 60 pages has become a kindred spirit to me through her writing. There is no recipe for grieving and at times it's like your in someone elses house and can not find anything you need. Words, sentences you've spoken but can not remember. Places and going through the motions but did you really do it or you just thought so. The Awful power of grief can derange the mind. Thoughts, sights, smells, the physical body are stretched so thin it's beyond reality and fantasy.

When my dearest husband died, I lost days, forget phone numbers, people's names, whether I showered. Reading this book provides me with somber reality that not just myself had entered the dark whirlpool of which I was too weak and lost to find my way out. This book as allowed me to read about my own road of grief... Which is not close to ending. And

Superb book, thank you. M

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

An interesting book

By Mashawn

Joan Didion's writing is exquisite in its precision and detail. However, having been through a searing period of grief myself some years back, I was surprised that her recollections did not resonate for me, but then, I did not lose a spouse. I found the book to be frustratingly disjointed, but I also see that as purposeful and an effort to represent her feeling of profound disorientation. And I found her constant name-dropping and precise recollecting of trivial detail, such as what she might have had for dinner, distracting and wholly immaterial to the narrative. For me, reading the book was an intellectual exercise, not an immersive experience.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Touched many nerves

By AHLshopper

I am a widow of eleven months, having lost my husband suddenly at the age of 58 (he had just celebrated that birthday 13 days earlier, I was 57) to the same sudden "widow-maker" heart attack, though my husband's was not preceded by any warning or foreshadowing at all - and I found this book to be one of the most

helpful and relatable of the many I have read so far. In her easy to read style Didion gives true description to the inexplicable and uncontrollable thoughts and reactions she and women like me have experienced with the sudden loss of a husband with whom we had built a rich and sustaining marriage. I found myself agreeing with and relating to many things she described, though her story was complicated by her daughter's grave illness which pre-dated and continued after her husband's death. I recommend this book to those who have been widowed and are struggling through the confusion of grief or family or friends of someone in that circumstance.

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