



A Memoir of Grief (Continued)

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A haunting, original eStory from Jennifer Weiner.

When Eleanor Goode meets Gerald King, she's a senior at Wellesley who's won all the writing prizes. He's just published his first novel, *Dirty Blond*, and is well on his way to becoming one of the literary lions of his day. Gerry seduces Ellie, spinning her a fantasy of working with him, two writers, side by side. How could she have known that, in their years together, it would be one typewriter, not two; his words, not hers? How she would become the fetcher of coffee, the holder of trinkets fans would press into his hands after readings, the keeper of his legacy.

A Memoir of Grief (Continued) begins with Gerald's death. Ellie, who hasn't written more than a grocery list in decades of marriage, had no intention of writing a memoir. It's not until she realizes how broke he left her that she decides to write a whitewashed account of her life with the Great Man of Letters. *Widow's Walk* spends over a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Critics hail Ellie's talent, the revelatory way she writes about grief, and how to live through it.

Ellie enjoys the attention, but happily thinks that'll be the end of her literary career—until her agent starts asking about another book...

A Memoir of Grief (Continued) Details

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Author : Jennifer Weiner

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From Reader Review A Memoir of Grief (Continued) for online ebook

Gabi Coatsworth says

It's a short story, not a novel, so the criteria are different for me, at least. I thought it worked well!, with a nice twist about two-thirds of the way through.

Tori says

Weiner is actually one of my favorite authors. I met her in St Louis in July of 2012 and remember her mentioning this short.

This isn't her usual genre and neither was "recalculating" but I understand what she is trying to do. Both shorts have been panned by reviewers and I think they are grading Weiner on previous Weiner work. The shorts are not like her usual. Remember folks, writing is her job. You ever get bored in your job? Want to do something a bit different? She has agents, editors, fans etc breathing down her neck asking for her usual work and for awhile she was writing a novel a year. I respect and totally dig that maybe she wanted to take a break and try something different and not having enough time to page through long novels anymore, I'm enjoying her short stories and hope she continues.

Melanie Cannon says

I love Jennifer Weiner but this just wasn't a story to love for me.

Mary says

I enjoy Jennifer Weiner's e-short stories, and this one was a nice change of pace from the previous 2 I had read (Disconnected and Recalculating). Jennifer has a great gift for pulling you into complicated relationships, but this story was too short to delve into WHY the woman put up with so much from (and sacrificed so much of herself for) her horrible husband. I almost wish this story were a full-length book to unpack the layers a bit more!

Pamela says

Finished 7/2016. This was a cute short story. I liked the relationships and how in such a short story, she was able to give so much background that I felt like I understood many of the relationships (husband and wife, publicist and family, and other characters). The plot was not exactly expected, though I think some of it was a cop out of action instead of explanation. All in all, I liked it, but I could see it better as a longer story with more development to make it feel less abrupt.

Kourtney says

(Not sure this should count toward my goal since it is so short and I didn't really "read" it but played it while I ran) I liked the idea of this book and feel that it could have had the potential to be a great true novel. However, I felt that she was really trying to go out of her way to show a different writing style. There was vulgar language with out a purpose, character development was rushed and jumpy, and I just didn't buy into it as much as I have with other books. I still gave it a 3 because I was worried I was being harsh due to not liking the narrator. I would like the author to stay true to the style of hers that I have grown to love.

Wendy says

I have now read all of Jennifer Weiner's Kindle e-book short stories and this one is my favorite. Now I'm waiting patiently for her next novel to be published. I hope it is as good as this one.

Kirstin says

This was not one of Jennifer's best...I was really bored with the beginning but by the end it became slightly more interesting. It was not an uplifting story at all though- her cheating husband dies and she has to clean up the mess he left behind. It was disappointing to read about how she put up with his infidelity for so many years.

Tina says

I didnt understand the motives of the main character. She lists her husbands flaws, which were so self serving and egotistical, and yet she devoted her entire life to him excluding all others, even her son. Even in death her life is tied up in him. odd.

Mamarisa says

I know one of JW's favourite authors is Stephen King and clearly she was dabbling in his genre. Creepy! She did a great job!

Wendi says

Miserable. And not in a dark, harrowing narrative kind of way but just miserable characters, and only one

likeable; not being the protagonist, he doesn't help the story much.

To be brutally honest, I hated the protagonist, which made it difficult to get through. She admits to some pretty terrible things she's done in her life, which would be acceptable, really, if we saw decent justifications for her actions and/or other beneficial actions to balance them out but they simply don't exist. The primary action she takes in this story is, marginally, to benefit the one character for which the reader can feel some sympathy. But to a greater extent, it's to benefit the image of herself and her deceased husband who was so reprehensible, shallow and clearly a very ugly person throughout the story that, despite the excuse of being his wife, anything the protagonist does for his benefit just equates her to an equally terrible person.

This didn't feel like a "Kindle single," which I - perhaps mistakenly? - always think of as a short story or a glimpse into the lives of the author's already existing characters. This story felt very, very much like a lightly sketched out plotline; the blueprint for a longer story. I've read and enjoyed Weiner before and will certainly read her again but I'll skip over any Kindle singles.

Jennifer Gibbons says

Truly enjoyed this JW short short. It tells the story of a longtime married couple Ellie and Gerald. Gerald was a golden boy novelist; Ellie was his muse and took care of him. When Gerald dies, Ellie finds out the things that she turned the other way when it came to her husband cannot now be ignored. With the help of Gerald's editor and her drug addicted son, Ellie tries to find her own voice while still protecting her husband's legacy. Shades of Norman and Norris Church Mailer, Weiner excels at details and twists and turns.

Judy Collins says

Another mystery quirky e-short story from Jennifer about Gerald's death and Ellie who has not written in forever and then after her husband's death she decides to write a memoir—(she lived a miserable life with this man). Pay back is heck... Lots of twists and turns --a little on the dark side and a little haunting. (great for Halloween).

Renee says

Read this on my tablet on the flight from Dallas to Charlotte today. A light and pleasant read, not one that will stick with me for a length of time. I did like how the story jabbed at some of the current literary debates, but I think it lacked teeth. I still don't really know the motivations of the main character, but if you're not going to deconstruct the story in a lit class, then I guess that doesn't matter. It had a fun little twist, and felt, to me, like the outlines of a much larger, meatier story, and I'm rather sorry I don't get to read that.

Megan says

This book begins with the death of Gerald, the husband of Ellie, the protagonist. Ellie, who has no writing experience, has no intention of writing a memoir of her marriage to Gerald until she realizes how completely broke he left her. She decides to write a memoir of her life with the great writer and how it was far from the fairy-tale marriage she thought it would be when she married him. Her husband was a completely reprehensible man who seduced her and spun her a web of lies in order to get her to be with him. She suffered a difficult life with him, being the fetcher of coffee and the women that waited on and for him while he did what he pleased, continuing to have affairs with other women and just expecting Ellie to bite her tongue and keep a stiff upper lip, which she did.

I did not enjoy this story at all, which was kindof disappointing since I usually really enjoy Jennifer Weiner's writing. It was not written well and felt very under-developed. Not to mention, it was extremely depressing with no redeemable qualities. There weren't even any characters for the reader to relate to or like. I felt this story was definitely a flop.
