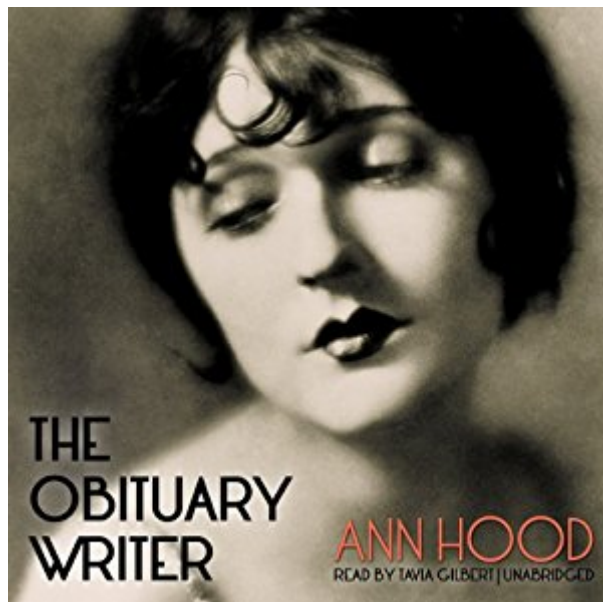


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The Obituary Writer



Synopsis

From best-selling author Ann Hood comes a sophisticated and suspenseful novel about the poignant lives of two women living in different eras. On the day John F. Kennedy is inaugurated, Claire, a young wife and mother obsessed with the glamour of Jackie, struggles over the decision of whether to stay in a loveless but secure marriage or to follow the man she loves and whose baby she may be carrying. Decades earlier, in 1919, Vivien Lowe, an obituary writer, is searching for her lover, who disappeared in the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. By telling the stories of the dead, Vivien not only helps others cope with their grief but also begins to understand the devastation of her own terrible loss. The surprising connection between these two women will change Claire's life in unexpected and extraordinary ways. Part literary mystery and part love story, *The Obituary Writer* examines expectations of marriage and love, the roles of wives and mothers, and the emotions of grief, regret, and hope.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oh my gosh, what a good book !It's told by 2 separate women ,one from the early 1920's, the other from the 1960's . It's very easy to follow, but at first ,you don't see a connection between the two, so you wonder how the book will weave the stories together .It talked quite a bit about the role a housewife had in the 60's and what her expectations were . I've often pondered whether life was better then , when people stayed married because they made vows ,and tried to work through problems, or whether it's better now when people seem to feel the freedom to get out of a marriage sooner ,without the stigma of being a "divorced person " ,like it was so long ago .It's a story of grief ,

of many different forms and types of grief, of marriages gone bad, and whether to work on repairing them or move on .It's the story of holding onto the past ,when you might be happier looking into your future .Just a wonderful book . My kind of story. It leaves you with an important life lesson .

Good book.....I really enjoyed both stories and how they intertwined at the end of the book. The abruptness of the ending was a little disturbing, however, as a whole, the characters and stories were quite interesting, it provided some insight into the 2 time periods; 1919 and 1960/1961 . Life has changed a great deal since then, and attitudes towards women have made so much positive change. Ann Hood's writing made the characters and the times come to life.I will be on the lookout for her next book.

First off, this book is not really about writing obituaries or anything morbid like that. The book focuses on two women, each discussed in every-other chapter. First is Claire, her story taking place in 1960. Second is Vivien, whose story starts in 1919. At the start of the book we find both women in a place in their lives other than what each had imagined.Claire is a suburban stay-at-home mother with a young child and another on the way. She believes the new baby may be the child of an affair, of which her husband has recently found out. Claire is unhappy with her current life, but has done little positive to change it. In fact, she clings to childhood notions of love and romance and what life is meant to be. She feels trapped in her life, but is unsure how to break free.Vivien's life has been marked by tragedy. She lost the love of her life, David, during the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and has never fully recovered. Unwilling to be a participant in a new life going forward, she instead becomes an obituary writer, almost in a way to keep herself surrounded by others who share in her grieving.Claire's choices bring her to a cross-point in the road of her life when her mother-in-law Birdy has a birthday party. The events that take place immediately after cause Claire to grow up, to change, to learn what is important in life and to know what it means to create one's happiness through gratitude.Vivien meets a man who challenges her idea of love, life and happiness. It is only when forced to confront how short life really is that Vivien decides truly living life and being thankful for each day is worth moving beyond the cocoon of grief she has made.The final chapters of the book bring Claire and Vivien together, answering the questions readers may have of what brings the whole book together in a cohesive unit. The Obituary Writer is a fast, easy read. The ultimate message seems to be that only by fully living and investing in making one's life better can one achieve happiness. Not a bad message, after all. It has a rather happy ending,

where everything worked out for the best. This is a good book for a beach read.

I really enjoyed this book. I had read *The Italian Wife* by Ann Hood, and I HATED that book! Since that was the first Ann Hood book that I had read, I decided to give the author a chance to redeem herself by reading a second work. If you're a reader who guesses the plot twists fairly easily, this book won't really keep you in suspense. BUT, if you just like a good story about characters living in different historical times, this is very enjoyable. I thought the character development was acceptable, and I liked getting to know the two main ladies of the book. You have to be willing to overlook some pretty big proofreading goofs, but I definitely thought it was worth it!

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