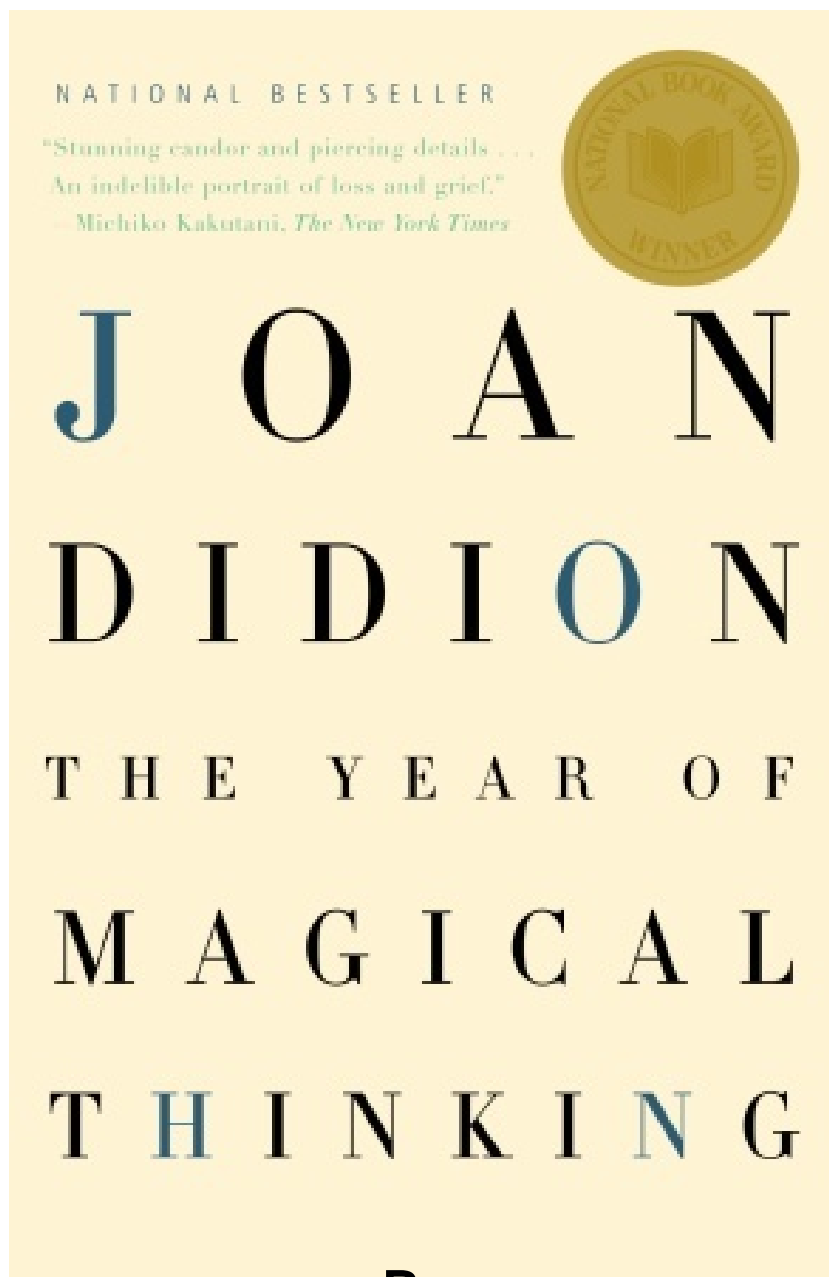


## The Year of Magical Thinking Book PDF Download



By:  
Joan Didion

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## What people Say:

### Kim

You might think of me as a cynic.

If you're being kind, that is. I'm the one that says "Seriously?" when being told of some tragic event--like someone would actually make up the horrific thing. I'm the one that views the whole process of death--the telling, the grieving, the service of any kind, the "after"-- as playing out like I'm in a soap opera bubble. Which camera should I look into when I break down again? Strike one against me.

Strike Two: I've never been much of a fan of Joan Didion... I

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and

. I didn't enjoy being told, essay-like, how I should go about writing. It's not my thing. That didn't help that urge to rebel that goes along with college either. My Didion backlash was further proven when

came out. Wait, you want to add Jessica Savitch to the list? Awww. Hell no. It just wasn't happening.

Strike Three (??): Maurice bought this for me a few Christmases ago. I winced, like I usually did when receiving a book from him. Must I relive the college debacle? I can't just NOT read it, because he WILL grill me on it. Buck up, Kim--I read the damn thing already. This was 5 years ago and I just recently found it in the back of the bookshelf. I did end up reading it then--and I thanked Maurice time and again for giving me such a gift. Because, that's what it truly was. Words can hold such extraordinary power..

## Books Ring Mah Bell

Disclaimer: Being fresh into the grieving process myself, you may want to skip this review and head onto others. Undoubtedly I'll purge my grief in a review about a book on grief. You've been warned.

Right off the top I will say this for the book: raw, powerful, honest, amazing.

If you have any interest in the grief process, READ THIS BOOK.

The only criticism that I

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have is that there's a lot of name dropping. Insert famous names and some fancy locations (Beverly Hills, Malibu), talk about using fine china, fancy bathrobes from some store I'll never set foot in...

Normally, that would drive me mad. (rich or poor, like that one book says, everybody poops!)

However, I never felt with her that the name dropping was pretentious, or snobbish. The people and places she named were simply a part of her life, so who am I to hold that against her?

## noisy penguin

I hated this book. It is the reason I instituted my "100 pages" policy (if it's not promising 100 pages in, I will no longer waste my time on it). So within the 100 pages I did read, all I got from Didion was that she and her husband used to live a fabulous life and they know a lot of famous people. She spoke of the '60s as a time when "everyone" was flying from LA to San Francisco for dinner. Um, no, actually, "everyone" wasn't doing that then and they're not doing it now. Instead of saying "ou

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## Debbie "DJ"

This is a hard book for me to review, as I know my own personal experience will be foremost. A big thank you to a wonderful friend who sent this to me after the loss of my own partner three weeks ago. So yes, this book is about grief and loss. It is Didion's own personal journey after the loss of her husband. The first lines in her memoir begin...

"Life changes fast.

Life changes in an instant.

You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends.

The question of self-pity."

Those words resonated with

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## Dawn

Hated it, hated it, hated it- but kept reading with the hope that all my pain and suffering would somehow be worth it in the end. It wasn't. The same self-pitying, whiney, depressing, self-important sentiments are basically repeated over and over again only with different words. Joan Didion can obviously write well, but she should have left this cathartic piece in her closet. And I'm not averse to reading novels that deal with grief. This one was just way too self-indulgent and redundant for me.

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