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An Exclusive Love: A Memoir



Synopsis

"A powerful and affecting memoirââreminiscent of Sebald." âPhlipp Meyer, author of *American Rust*
Chain-smoking, peculiarly stylish, stubborn, and eccentricâVera and IstvÃ¡n were anything but ordinary grandparents. Sixteen years after their death, Johanna AdorjÃ¡n fills the gaps in their story. *An Exclusive Love* is a brilliantly constructed memoir and a gorgeous romance, a tale of two people who died as they lived: inseparable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"On 13 October 1991 my grandparents killed themselves," the first sentence of *An Exclusive Love*, a memoir by Johanna AdorjÃ¡n grabs the reader and does not let go until the end. Reported without emotion - but not without beauty - as a news reporter does best, (AdorjÃ¡n is a cultural journalist), the reader immediately knows the ending but not the infinitesimal details, so worth paying attention to, of the path that leads one there. Shocking to the reader, still reeling from the harsh beginning, is presented succinctly but no less forceful when AdorjÃ¡n recounts the final entry in the official folder of the suicide. One last punch before the book closes is from the Danish police file is the bill from the locksmith who opened the door of her grandparents' home - \$297 kroner. The reader sees the door open and imagines the scene beyond it. Grandparents are an enigma. The tales they tell are often about our parents when they were young as if the near past was more important than decades that came before. In *An Exclusive Love* we are privy to not only the author's memories but also the intimate thoughts of people from each stage of her grandparents' (Vera and Istvan) life. The recent passing of Dr. Jack Kevorkian evokes the polarizing discussion of "death with dignity." Some called

him "Dr. Death" and opposed his methods. Some called him the "angel of mercy." The Federal Government has recused itself from the conversation and handed the reins to each state to determine if and when assisted suicide is legal. A private matter and a private choice, Vera and Istvan did not ask permission from anyone but each other. An Exclusive Love is a painful and engrossing detail of the day that Adorjn's grandparents acted on their suicide pact.

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