

# a grief observed by cs lewis

A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis: Understanding Loss Through a Masterful Reflection

**a grief observed by cs lewis** is more than just a book title; it's a profound exploration of sorrow, faith, and the human experience of mourning. Written in the aftermath of his wife's death, C.S. Lewis's work offers a deeply personal yet universally resonant meditation on grief. For anyone navigating the turbulent waters of loss, this reflective piece stands as a beacon of honesty and insight.

## The Context Behind A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis

Before diving into the themes and lessons within the book, it's important to understand the context in which Lewis penned this work. After the death of his wife, Joy Davidman, Lewis found himself grappling with the raw emotions that accompany profound loss. Unlike his more famous works like *\*The Chronicles of Narnia\** or *\*Mere Christianity\**, *\*A Grief Observed\** strips away theological certainty and reveals the vulnerable, questioning heart of a man wrestling with pain.

The book was originally published under a pseudonym, reflecting Lewis's wish to keep his private anguish separate from his public persona. This anonymity allowed him to explore grief candidly – often wrestling with doubt, anger, and confusion – before eventually reconciling his intellectual beliefs with his emotional reality.

## Themes Explored in A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis

### The Rawness of Grief

One of the most striking aspects of *\*A Grief Observed\** is its raw honesty. Lewis doesn't sugarcoat the experience of losing a loved one. Instead, he articulates the disorienting pain that can feel all-consuming. This unfiltered portrayal helps readers feel less alone in their own suffering, validating the complexity of emotions that come with grief.

Lewis writes about the "mad midnight moments" when grief seems unbearable, and the way sorrow can twist one's perception of the world. His reflections

remind us that grief isn't a neat, linear process but a chaotic journey with ups and downs.

## **Doubt and Faith in the Midst of Loss**

For many, grief challenges deeply held beliefs. Lewis's struggle with faith is one of the most compelling parts of *\*A Grief Observed\**. While he had long been a Christian apologist, the death of his wife plunged him into doubt and questioning. He openly questions God's goodness and the meaning of suffering, revealing a side of grief that is often hidden in religious discourse.

Yet, despite these doubts, Lewis's journey doesn't end in despair. Through his reflections, readers witness a gradual, sometimes painful, reconciliation between his grief and his faith. This aspect of the book is particularly meaningful for readers who wrestle with spiritual questions during their own times of loss.

## **The Nature of Love and Memory**

Lewis also explores how grief is intertwined with love. The depth of sorrow he experiences is a testament to the love he shared with his wife. This connection between love and grief is universal, and Lewis's eloquence in expressing it helps readers understand that mourning is, in part, a reflection of the bonds we cherish.

His meditations on memory—the way it both comforts and torments—offer insight into how we carry our loved ones with us even after they're gone. This duality of memory is something many who grieve can relate to, providing a lens through which to view their own experiences.

## **Why *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis Still Resonates Today**

### **Timelessness of Personal Reflection**

Despite being written over half a century ago, *\*A Grief Observed\** remains relevant because it speaks to the timeless human experience of loss. Lewis's willingness to expose his vulnerability resonates with readers across generations and cultures. His reflections encourage openness about grief, challenging societal tendencies to avoid or minimize discussions about death and mourning.

# **A Guide for Navigating Grief**

For those currently facing loss, Lewis's words can serve as a guide. His honest exploration of emotions, including anger and confusion, normalizes the often messy process of grieving. Readers can find comfort in knowing that their feelings are not abnormal or shameful but a natural part of healing.

Additionally, Lewis's journey toward finding meaning and hope can inspire others to seek their own path through grief, whether through spirituality, community support, or personal reflection.

## **Key Insights from A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis**

### **1. Grief Is Not a Problem to Be Solved**

Lewis's writing emphasizes that grief is not a problem with a neat solution but an experience to be lived through. Trying to rush past sorrow or force closure can be counterproductive. Instead, allowing oneself to feel the full spectrum of emotions is crucial for genuine healing.

### **2. Questioning Is Part of Faith**

Lewis shows that questioning God or the nature of suffering doesn't mean losing faith. Rather, it's part of a deeper engagement with belief. Readers struggling with spiritual doubts during grief can find solace in knowing that questioning can coexist with faith.

### **3. Love Outlasts Death**

The enduring nature of love is a central theme. Even in the face of death, the bonds formed in life continue to influence and shape those left behind. This idea can help people find meaning in their mourning and a way to keep their loved ones close in memory.

## **How to Approach Grief Inspired by C.S. Lewis's Reflections**

## **Embrace Emotional Honesty**

One of the most valuable lessons from *\*A Grief Observed\** is the importance of being honest about your feelings. Bottling up pain or pretending to be okay can prolong suffering. Allow yourself to experience grief fully, including anger, confusion, and sadness.

## **Seek Support and Share Your Story**

Lewis's work highlights the isolation that grief can bring, but it also implicitly encourages sharing your burden. Talking with trusted friends, family, or support groups can provide relief and perspective.

## **Allow Time for Healing**

Grief doesn't follow a fixed timeline. Learning from Lewis's gradual reconciliation with his loss, it's important to be patient with yourself. Healing is a process that unfolds uniquely for each person.

## **Reflect on Your Beliefs**

Whether or not you share Lewis's Christian perspective, his journey invites readers to reflect on their own beliefs about life, death, and meaning. Engaging with these questions can be a source of comfort and strength.

## **The Literary Style and Impact of *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis**

Lewis's writing style in this book is intimate and conversational, almost like reading a heartfelt journal. This approach contrasts with his more formal theological works, making *\*A Grief Observed\** accessible and relatable. His candid tone allows readers to connect deeply with his experience.

The impact of this work extends beyond literature into psychology, theology, and pastoral care. Many counselors and spiritual leaders recommend it as a resource for those struggling with grief, demonstrating its broad relevance.

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In the end, *\*A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis remains a powerful testament to the human capacity to confront pain honestly and emerge with renewed understanding. Whether you are mourning a loss yourself or seeking to support

someone who is, Lewis's reflections offer profound wisdom and hope. His journey through grief reminds us that sorrow, while deeply challenging, can lead to greater empathy, faith, and appreciation for the love that defines us.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'A Grief Observed' by C.S. Lewis about?**

'A Grief Observed' is a personal reflection written by C.S. Lewis on the experience of mourning the death of his wife, Joy Davidman. It explores the raw emotions and spiritual struggles he faced during his grief.

### **Why did C.S. Lewis write 'A Grief Observed'?**

C.S. Lewis wrote 'A Grief Observed' as a way to process his intense grief and doubts following the death of his wife. It serves as a candid journal of his journey through sorrow, faith, and healing.

### **How does 'A Grief Observed' explore the theme of faith?**

'A Grief Observed' delves into the challenges to faith that grief can provoke. Lewis questions God's nature and presence, expressing anger and confusion, but ultimately finds a renewed understanding of faith through his pain.

### **Is 'A Grief Observed' a fictional work or a memoir?**

'A Grief Observed' is a memoir, not a fictional work. It is a deeply personal and honest account of C.S. Lewis's own experiences with grief and loss.

### **What impact has 'A Grief Observed' had on readers dealing with loss?**

'A Grief Observed' has resonated with many readers as a comforting and relatable exploration of grief. Its candid portrayal of sorrow and doubt offers solace and validation to those navigating similar losses.

## **Additional Resources**

**\*\*A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis: An Analytical Review\*\***

**a grief observed by cs lewis** stands as one of the most poignant and introspective works on grief and mourning in modern literature. Written in

the aftermath of the death of his wife, Joy Davidman, this work delves deeply into the raw and often unsettling emotional landscape that accompanies profound loss. Unlike conventional treatises on grief that may offer solace through platitudes or religious consolation, Lewis's narrative presents a candid exploration of sorrow, doubt, and faith, inviting readers to grapple with the complexities of human suffering.

## **Understanding the Context of \*A Grief Observed\***

To appreciate \*A Grief Observed\* fully, it is essential to contextualize the circumstances under which Lewis wrote it. The book is essentially a collection of journal entries penned during a period of intense personal anguish following Joy Davidman's battle with cancer. This intimate setting contributes to the work's authenticity and emotional intensity. Notably, Lewis, a celebrated Christian apologist and author of \*The Chronicles of Narnia\*, is known for his theological clarity and optimism. However, in \*A Grief Observed\*, readers witness a departure from his usual tone—he confronts his faith's vulnerabilities head-on.

The book is often categorized under grief memoirs or spiritual reflections on loss, and it occupies a unique space where theology intersects with personal narrative. This hybridity appeals to a broad audience: those seeking understanding of grief itself, as well as readers interested in the spiritual and philosophical dimensions of suffering.

## **Thematic Exploration: Faith and Doubt in the Face of Loss**

One of the central themes in \*A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis\* is the tension between faith and doubt. Lewis, who had long espoused a rational and hopeful Christian worldview, finds himself questioning the very foundations of his beliefs. The raw honesty with which he voices his doubts is a critical feature that sets this work apart from traditional religious literature on grief.

Lewis grapples with questions such as:

- **\*\*Why does God allow suffering?\*\***
- **\*\*Is faith sustainable in the face of overwhelming pain?\*\***
- **\*\*How does one reconcile personal anguish with theological doctrines of love and justice?\*\***

His reflections do not offer definitive answers but rather chronicle the oscillation between despair and hope. This nuanced treatment of spiritual struggle resonates deeply with readers undergoing similar crises, making the book a valuable resource for those navigating grief without the comfort of immediate resolution.

# Narrative Style and Literary Significance

Lewis's writing style in *A Grief Observed* is notably different from his other works. The prose is fragmented, raw, and reflective, mirroring the turbulence of his emotional state. This stream-of-consciousness approach enhances the authenticity of the text, allowing readers to experience the immediacy of his pain and confusion.

From a literary perspective, *A Grief Observed* breaks away from the polished, often didactic style typical of Lewis's apologetic works. Instead, it adopts a confessional tone, emphasizing vulnerability over authority. Such a stylistic choice not only humanizes Lewis but also broadens the appeal of the text beyond strictly theological circles.

## Comparative Analysis: *A Grief Observed* and Other Grief Literature

When compared with other seminal works on grief, such as Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's *On Death and Dying* or Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Lewis's *A Grief Observed* occupies a distinctive niche. While Kübler-Ross introduces the famous five stages of grief, and Didion offers a memoir centered on the practicalities and surreal experiences of loss, Lewis's text is deeply philosophical and theological.

Key distinctions include:

- **Philosophical Depth**: Lewis interrogates the metaphysical implications of grief, whereas others focus more on psychological or social aspects.
- **Religious Context**: Unlike secular grief narratives, Lewis's work is steeped in Christian theology, providing a spiritual lens through which loss is examined.
- **Emotional Rawness**: The journal format allows for a candid and unfiltered expression of pain, which some readers find more relatable than polished memoirs.

These differences highlight *A Grief Observed* as a valuable complement to the broader corpus of grief literature, particularly for readers interested in the interplay between loss and faith.

## Psychological Insights in *A Grief Observed*

Although primarily a spiritual reflection, *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis inadvertently provides psychological insights into the grieving process. Lewis's candid descriptions of numbness, anger, bargaining, and eventual moments of acceptance align closely with contemporary understandings of grief stages, even though he does not explicitly reference psychological theories.

For example, Lewis writes about feeling estranged from himself and the world, a symptom commonly identified as dissociation in grief psychology. His vacillation between hope and despair mirrors the non-linear progression of healing recognized by mental health professionals.

Such psychological undercurrents elevate the book's relevance not only for theologians but also for counselors, therapists, and individuals seeking to understand the multifaceted nature of grief.

## **The Role of Doubt as a Catalyst for Growth**

An often-overlooked aspect of *\*A Grief Observed\** is how doubt functions not merely as an expression of pain but as a potential catalyst for spiritual growth. Lewis does not reject his faith outright; instead, his questioning leads to a more mature and nuanced understanding of belief.

This dynamic is crucial for readers who fear that grief and doubt might irreparably damage their spiritual lives. Lewis's journey suggests that wrestling with faith in times of sorrow can result in a deeper, more resilient spirituality. This theme contributes to the work's enduring appeal within Christian circles and beyond.

## **Practical Takeaways: How *\*A Grief Observed\** Helps Readers**

For individuals currently experiencing loss, *\*A Grief Observed\** offers several practical benefits:

- **Validation of Emotions:** Lewis's honest portrayal of despair and anger helps normalize these feelings, reducing isolation.
- **Encouragement to Question:** Readers are given permission to doubt and question their beliefs without shame.
- **Insight into the Grief Process:** The work illuminates the complexity and non-linearity of mourning, preparing readers for their own emotional fluctuations.

In addition, for clergy and counselors, the text serves as a resource to understand the spiritual dimensions of grief, facilitating more empathetic support for those in mourning.



# Limitations and Critiques

While *A Grief Observed* is widely praised for its honesty and depth, some critiques highlight its limitations:

- **Subjectivity:** The intensely personal nature of the journal format may limit its applicability to readers with different experiences or beliefs.
- **Religious Focus:** Non-Christian readers might find some reflections less accessible or resonant.
- **Emotional Intensity:** The rawness of the text can be challenging for those in acute grief or emotional distress.

However, these limitations are often outweighed by the work's authenticity and the universality of its core themes.

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*A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis remains a seminal exploration of grief that transcends its immediate context. Its blend of theological inquiry, emotional candor, and philosophical depth renders it a timeless companion for anyone seeking to understand the profound experience of loss. Whether approached as a spiritual meditation or a psychological case study, Lewis's reflections continue to illuminate the shadowed terrain of human sorrow with remarkable clarity and compassion.

## [A Grief Observed By Cs Lewis](#)

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**a grief observed by cs lewis: A Grief Observed** C.S. Lewis, 2012-10-04 The perennial classic: this intimate journal chronicling the Narnia author's experience of grief after his wife's death has consoled readers for half a century with its 'sensitive and eloquent' magic (Hilary Mantel) 'An intimate, anguished account of a man grappling with the mysteries of faith and love ... Elegant and raw ... A powerful record of thought and emotion experienced in real time.' Guardian 'Raw and modern ... This unsentimental, even bracing, account of one man's dialogue with despair becomes both compelling and consoling ... A contemporary classic.' Observer 'A source of great consolation ... Lewis deploys his genius for vivid imagery ... It is a relief for the reader to find that he or she is not alone in the intense loneliness or feelings of anguish that bereavement brings.' Henry Marsh, The Times 'Testimony from a sensitive and eloquent witness [on] 'The Human Condition'. It offers an interrogation of experience and a glimmer of hardwon hope. It allows one bewildered mind to reach out to another. Death is no barrier to that.' Hilary Mantel 'Here, sorrow and despair, the tiredness and numbness and petulance and nightmarishness of grief, all have their full, uncontrolled, experienced force ... [Such] radical openness ... Brilliant.' Francis Spufford \*\*\* No one ever told me

that grief felt so like fear. Narnia author C.S. Lewis had been married to his wife for four blissful years. When she died of cancer, he found himself alone, inconsolable in his grief. In this intimate journal, he chronicles the aftermath of the bereavement and mourning with blazing honesty. He grapples with a crisis of religious faith, navigating hope, rage, despair, and love - but eventually regains his bearings, finding his way back to life. A luminous modern classic, *A Grief Observed* has offered solace to countless readers for decades. This companion edition combines the original text with personal responses from Hilary Mantel, Rowan Williams, Francis Spufford, Maureen Freely, Kate Saunders, Jessica Martin and Jenna Bailey. \*\*\* What readers are saying: 'A truly great book - inspirational and untold help.' 'Every human being, living or dead, understands what Lewis means ... One of the most valuable books ever written.' 'Lewis, as always, sits down next to you and validates your grief like a true friend. He lets you rage, and cry, and even be furious with God, just as he did.' 'If you are grieving an enormous loss, you may find comfort here ... A great mind and wonderful writer who understands your grief well enough to put words to it.' 'His journal was also my journal as I worked through my own grief. Reading this book was actually comforting in that I knew that someone else understood my situation and offered insight and hope ... I highly recommend this book for anyone who has gone through the death of a loved one or who wants to comfort. 'This little book has had me in floods of tears [and] shows a real understanding of grief ... To read the words of this great man who shared and understood my pain and is a life affirming and faith affirming experience.'

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A Grief Observed** Clive Staples Lewis, 1961 In April 1956, C.S. Lewis, a confirmed bachelor, married Joy Davidman, an American poet with two small children. After four brief, intensely happy years, Lewis found himself alone again, and inconsolable. To defend himself against the loss of belief in God, Lewis wrote this journal, an eloquent statement of rediscovered faith. In it he freely confesses his doubts, his rage, and his awareness of human frailty. In it he finds again the way back to life.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: Summary of C.S.Lewis's A Grief Observed** Milkyway Media, 2024-03-25 Get the Summary of C.S.Lewis's *A Grief Observed* in 20 minutes. Please note: This is a summary & not the original book. *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis is a candid exploration of the author's profound sorrow following the death of his wife, H. Lewis likens grief to fear and describes the detachment it brings, making it difficult to connect with others. He grapples with the temptation of self-pity and the lethargy that grief induces. His faith is tested as he feels God's absence, and he struggles with the notion of an afterlife, rejecting false comforts and spiritualism...

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A GRIEF OBSERVED: A Book that Questions the Nature of Grief (Based on a Personal Journal)** C. S. Lewis, 2023-12-08 In *A Grief Observed*, C. S. Lewis delves into the depths of human sorrow following the death of his wife, Joy Davidman. Written as a personal journal, this poignant work captures the raw and unfiltered emotions that accompany profound loss. The prose is both lyrical and reflective, drawing the reader into Lewis's inner turmoil as he grapples with questions of faith, love, and existence in the face of grief. Stylistically, the book intertwines philosophical musings with intimate reflections, creating a compelling narrative that resonates with anyone who has experienced the pain of losing a loved one. C. S. Lewis, an esteemed scholar and writer, is best known for his works on Christian apologetics and fiction. His personal experience with grief was a transformative period in his life, shaping not only this work but also his broader theological explorations. Lewis's academic background and personal losses inform his reflections, offering a unique lens through which he examines the complexities of mourning and the challenge of understanding God's presence amid suffering. This book is highly recommended for readers seeking solace, understanding, and a deeper exploration of grief. Lewis's candid insights provide a treasure trove of wisdom, making *A Grief Observed* an essential companion for anyone navigating the turbulence of loss.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A GRIEF OBSERVED (Based on a Personal Journal)** C. S. Lewis, 2023-12-05 In *A Grief Observed*, C. S. Lewis delves into the profound depths of bereavement following the death of his wife, Joy Davidman. This poignant work, originally penned as a personal

journal, captures the rawness of Lewis's emotions as he grapples with the dualities of love and loss, faith and doubt. Writing in a candid, accessible style that reflects both his philosophical acumen and his theological insights, Lewis navigates the tumultuous landscape of grief, revealing its complexities while questioning the very nature of God and existence. The text serves as both a personal catharsis and a universal exploration of mourning, situating itself within the modernist literary context and echoing the existential inquiries prevalent in post-war literature. C. S. Lewis, renowned for his contributions to literature, theology, and philosophy, drew from his own harrowing experiences in crafting this intimate account of loss. His prior works, including *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Mere Christianity*, showcase his ability to convey profound ideas in relatable language, a skill that becomes especially poignant in the face of personal tragedy. Lewis's intellectual background, combined with his heartfelt emotions, informs this poignant, reflective journey through grief, allowing readers to glimpse the man behind the esteemed scholar. *A Grief Observed* is highly recommended for readers seeking a deeper understanding of loss and the enduring power of love. Whether grappling with personal grief or desiring insight into the human condition, Lewis's reflections will resonate with anyone who has experienced profound sorrow. This book not only offers solace but also provokes thought about the nature of faith in the face of suffering, making it an essential read for both those in mourning and those contemplating the complexities of the human experience.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A Grief Observed** C S (Clive Staples) 1898-1963 Lewis, 2021-09-09 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: C. S. Lewis's the Problem of Pain/a Grief Observed** C. S. Lewis, Terry L. Miethe, 1999 A volume comparable in style to Cliff's Notes, here highlighting the key points from C. S. Lewis's *The Problem of Pain* and *A Grief Observed*.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: Summary of C. S. Lewis's A Grief Observed** Everest Media,, 2022-04-26T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 Grief is like fear. It feels like being afraid, but for different reasons. It is difficult to take in what others say, and it is hard to want to take it in. It is so uninteresting. Yet I want the others to be about me. #2 Marriage has done wonders for me. I can never again believe that religion is manufactured out of our unconscious, starved desires and is a substitute for sex. I know now that God is absent when we need him the most because he is absent - non-existent. #3 I began to see that respect for the wishes of the dead is a trap. I cannot talk to the children about their mother, and they look as if I am committing an indecency. I am an embarrassment to everyone I meet. #4 The end of H. 's life was the beginning of mine. We were separated by death, and by the fact that we were both dying of cancer. But we had been torn apart by time and space and body, which had brought us together.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A Translation of C.S. Lewis' "A Grief Observed"** Anne-Marie Vermijlen, 1983

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A GRIEF OBSERVED: A Book that Questions the Nature of Grief (Based on a Personal Journal)** C. S. Lewis, 2016-05-02 This carefully crafted ebook: *A GRIEF OBSERVED: A Book that Questions the Nature of Grief (Based on a Personal Journal)* is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. *A Grief Observed* is a collection of Lewis's reflections on the experience of bereavement following the death of his wife, Joy Davidman, in 1960. The book was first published under the pseudonym N.W. Clerk as Lewis wished to avoid

identification as the author. Though republished in 1963 after his death under his own name, the text still refers to his wife as H (her first name, which she rarely used, was Helen). The book is compiled from the four notebooks which Lewis used to vent and explore his grief. He illustrates the everyday trials of his life without Joy and explores fundamental questions of faith and theodicy. Lewis's step-son (Joy's son) Douglas Gresham points out in his 1994 introduction that the indefinite article 'a' in the title makes it clear that Lewis's grief is not the quintessential grief experience at the loss of a loved one, but one individual's perspective among countless others. The book helped inspire a 1985 television movie *Shadowlands*, as well as a 1993 film of the same name. Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963) was a British novelist, poet, academic, medievalist, lay theologian and Christian apologist. He is best known for his fictional work, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Space Trilogy*, and for his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *The Problem of Pain*.

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A Grief Observed (Readers' Edition)** C.S. Lewis, 2014-12-30  
The perennial classic: this intimate journal chronicling the Narnia author's experience of grief after his wife's death has consoled readers for half a century; this edition features responses from authors like Hilary Mantel, Francis Spufford, Rowan Williams, Jenna Bailey ... 'An intimate, anguished account of a man grappling with the mysteries of faith and love ... Elegant and raw ... A powerful record of thought and emotion experienced in real time.' *Guardian* 'Raw and modern ... This unsentimental, even bracing, account of one man's dialogue with despair becomes both compelling and consoling ... A contemporary classic.' *Observer* 'A source of great consolation ... Lewis deploys his genius for vivid imagery ... It is a relief for the reader to find that he or she is not alone in the intense loneliness or feelings of anguish that bereavement brings.' Henry Marsh, *The Times* 'Testimony from a sensitive and eloquent witness [on] *The Human Condition*'. It offers an interrogation of experience and a glimmer of hardwon hope. It allows one bewildered mind to reach out to another. Death is no barrier to that.' Hilary Mantel 'Here, sorrow and despair, the tiredness and numbness and petulance and nightmarishness of grief, all have their full, uncontrolled, experienced force ... [Such] radical openness ... Brilliant.' Francis Spufford \*\*\* No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear. Narnia author C.S. Lewis had been married to his wife for four blissful years. When she died of cancer, he found himself alone, inconsolable in his grief. In this intimate journal, he chronicles the aftermath of the bereavement and mourning with blazing honesty. He grapples with a crisis of religious faith, navigating hope, rage, despair, and love - but eventually regains his bearings, finding his way back to life. A luminous modern classic, *A Grief Observed* has offered solace to countless readers for decades. This companion edition combines the original text with personal responses from Hilary Mantel, Rowan Williams, Francis Spufford, Maureen Freely, Kate Saunders, Jessica Martin and Jenna Bailey. \*\*\* What readers are saying: 'A truly great book - inspirational and untold help.' 'Every human being, living or dead, understands what Lewis means ... One of the most valuable books ever written.' 'Lewis, as always, sits down next to you and validates your grief like a true friend. He lets you rage, and cry, and even be furious with God, just as he did.' 'If you are grieving an enormous loss, you may find comfort here ... A great mind and wonderful writer who understands your grief well enough to put words to it.' 'His journal was also my journal as I worked through my own grief. Reading this book was actually comforting in that I knew that someone else understood my situation and offered insight and hope ... I highly recommend this book for anyone who has gone through the death of a loved one or who wants to comfort. 'This little book has had me in floods of tears [and] shows a real understanding of grief ... To read the words of this great man who shared and understood my pain and is a life affirming and faith affirming experience.'

**a grief observed by cs lewis: A Grief Observed** C. Lewis, 2016-06-25 No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear. I am not afraid, but the sensation is like being afraid. The same fluttering in the stomach, the same restlessness, the yawning. I keep on swallowing. At other times it feels like being mildly drunk, or concussed. There is a sort of invisible blanket between the world and me. I find it hard to take in what anyone says. Or perhaps, hard to want to take it in. It is so uninteresting.

Yet I want the others to be about me. I dread the moments when the house is empty. If only they would talk to one another and not to me.

**a grief observed by cs lewis:** A Grief Observed , 1968

**a grief observed by cs lewis: Discuss Grief: A Discussion Guide for a Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis** Tom Morris, 2010-03-12 Lewis' feelings and musings about his wife's death were first published in 1961. Since then it has helped thousands and thousands of people who have read it or have spoken of its contents. This study is to encourage you to read the book in its entirety. It is to help you grapple with issues of grief that Lewis and all mankind struggles with in grief. It is to help you grapple with issues of grief that everyone faces in loss. Each page is designed to be a discussion session for a group or 5-12 students. Discuss the passage of *A Grief Observed* prior to delving into the questions. Allow each student to respond to the first question before going on to the next. Allow for more time if some student has difficulty understanding or answering the question. It is my hope that these will assist you in helping young people make sense of death(s) in their lives. This book was written to help teens in grief support groups. It is my hope it can be a help to you and others.

**a grief observed by cs lewis:** *C. S. Lewis's Christian Apologetics* Gregory Bassham, 2015-06-29 Are C. S. Lewis's major arguments in defense of Christian belief sound? In *C. S. Lewis's Christian Apologetics: Pro and Con*, defenders and critics of Lewis's apologetics square off and debate the merits of Lewis's arguments from desire, from reason, from morality, the "trilemma" argument for the divinity of Christ, as well as Lewis's response to the problem of evil. By means of these lively, in-depth debates, readers will emerge with a deeper understanding and appreciation of today's most influential Christian apologist.

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**a grief observed by cs lewis:** *Essential C. S. Lewis* Clive Staples Lewis, 1996 A selection of Lewis' work, including essays, letters, poems, and texts of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *Perelandra* and *Abolition of Man*.

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