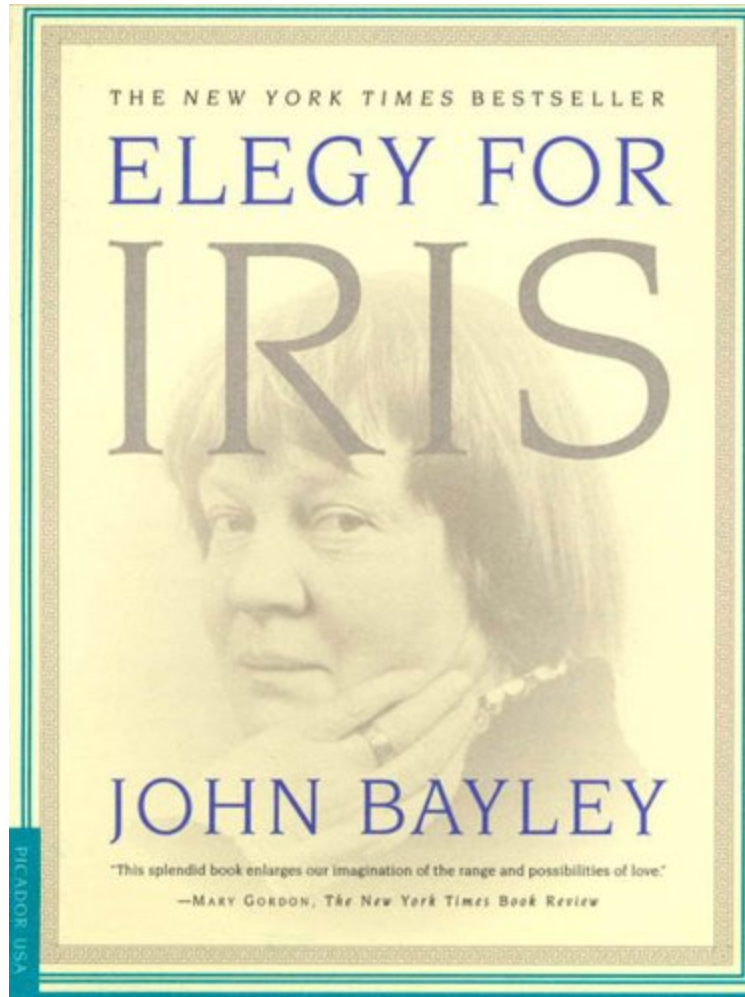


(Free) Elegy for Iris

## Elegy for Iris

Von John Bayley

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**Von John Bayley : Elegy for Iris** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elegy for Iris:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Little GemVon Elizabeth HendryThis book is heartbreakingly beautiful. Bayley loved his wife, Iris Murdoch, so deeply, and on so many levels and that love comes across beautifully in this book. Bayley brings us into the intimate private world that he and Murdoch shared. As a longtime fan of Iris Murdoch, I am thankful for the insight into her life and her work. This book is very personal, so much so that I don't think it can be read in one sitting, but rather should be savoured slowly and deliberately. I remember the sadness I felt hearing that she had Alzheimer's and then hearing that she died. This book brings back that sadness, but it comes back stronger because it also brings John Bayley's sadness. That is not to say that this book is a "downer" on any level. Quite the contrary. John Bayley has constructed a beautiful

book focused mainly on his love for his wife, and how the love between them grew, from his first sighting of her riding a bicycle to the time when he wrote this book, as she was suffering from the ravages of the disease.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Haunting, but upliftingVon BluestalkingJohn Bayley and Iris Murdoch had a rare relationship, the kind most of us dream of having. Two writers, working side by side, living their lives to the fullest, John Bayley and Iris Murdoch weren't so much a marriage as a team. Their support for each other's craft is laudable, and Bayley's reaction to losing his wife while she was still alive is heartbreaking and at times oddly humorous. You feel what Bayley must have felt, looking at the shell of the woman he'd spent most of his life with and hoping there was still some of her inside somewhere, and you laugh and cry right along with him. This book is a loving tribute to one of the greatest modern novelists and philosophers who ever lived, and I felt greatly enriched after reading this book. It has stayed with me ever since.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Love LessonsVon Ein KundeHey Oprah! This isn't one to miss. Bayley's love letter memoir of his life with Iris Murdoch is Pulitzer quality...if for no other reason than the insight it provides for maintaining peace in marriage. Brilliant writing and honest humility aside, his knack for teaching everyone, newlywed and old-timer alike, that a happy home is possible for even the most unlikely of mates is praiseworthy. My own marriage of 49 years will certainly be the chief beneficiary of my discovery of John Bayley.

Kurzbeschreibung"I was living in a fairy story--the kind with sinister overtones and not always a happy ending--in which a young man loves a beautiful maiden who returns his love but is always disappearing into some unknown and mysterious world, about which she will reveal nothing."So John Bayley describes his life with his wife, Iris Murdoch, one of the greatest contemporary writers in the English-speaking world, revered for her works of philosophy and beloved for her incandescent novels.In *Elegy for Iris*, Bayley attempts to uncover the real Iris, whose mysterious world took on darker shades as she descended into Alzheimer's disease. *Elegy for Iris* is a luminous memoir about the beauty of youth and aging, and a celebration of a brilliant life and an undying love..deIn one of literary history's ghastlier ironies, Iris Murdoch, the author of such highly intellectual and philosophical novels as *A Severed Head* and *Under the Net*, was diagnosed in 1994 with Alzheimer's disease, which slowly destroys reasoning powers, memory, even the ability to speak coherently. Her husband, English literary critic John Bayley, unsparingly depicts his wife's affliction in prose as elegant and accessible as hers always was. Readers may wince at the spectacle of Murdoch glued to the TV watching the *Teletubbies* program, unable to perform tasks as simple as dressing herself and prey to devastating anxiety as the world becomes less and less comprehensible to her. We understand Bayley's occasional fits of rage when his caretaking chores overwhelm him. Yet in the end his memoir is touching, even inspiring. As he recalls their first meetings and marriage in the 1950s, it becomes clear that theirs was always an unconventional union, in which solitude was as important to each of them as togetherness and Bayley was content to let Murdoch keep her inner life to herself. He loves Iris, the woman, not the intellect, and he conveys an essential sweetness about his wife that endures even as her mental faculties deteriorate. This totally unsentimental account of their life and her illness is nonetheless a heartbreaker. --Wendy Smith*Pressestimmen*"This splendid book enlarges our imagination of the range and possibilities of love." --Mary Gordon, *The New York Times Book* "Magnificently, hauntingly humane." --Michael Pakenham, *The Baltimore Sun*"Bayley's restrained and elegant love song to his wife of 42 years . . . is beautiful and heartbreaking. Full of spirit, generous and resilient." --Gail Caldwell, *The Boston Globe*"A beautifully rendered portrait . . . Bayley reaffirms how suffering can ennoble the human heart. [*Elegy for Iris*] is an affecting remembrance of one of the great literary marriages of our time. It celebrates the victory of life--and love." --Wendell Brock, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*"A heart-melting love story and an erudite inquiry into the nature of personality, memory, and invention. Wise and full of grace." --Shelby Hearon, *The Chicago Tribune*"*Elegy for Iris* is a work of art. As beautiful as it is wise, *Elegy for Iris* has already become a classic memoir and a remedy for modern love. Read it and, if you dare, give it to someone you love." -Tom D'Evelyn, *Providence Sunday Journal*"Here, between the covers of an incredible book, is love . . . that doesn't hedge, love for which there are no ready outs, love that feels as inevitable as breathing, and the result is stunning." --Abraham Verghese,*The Los Angeles Times Book* "Heartfelt and admirably unsentimental . . . a testament to a love that has endured and transcended the most terrifying ravages of illness and old age." --Francine Prose, *Elle*