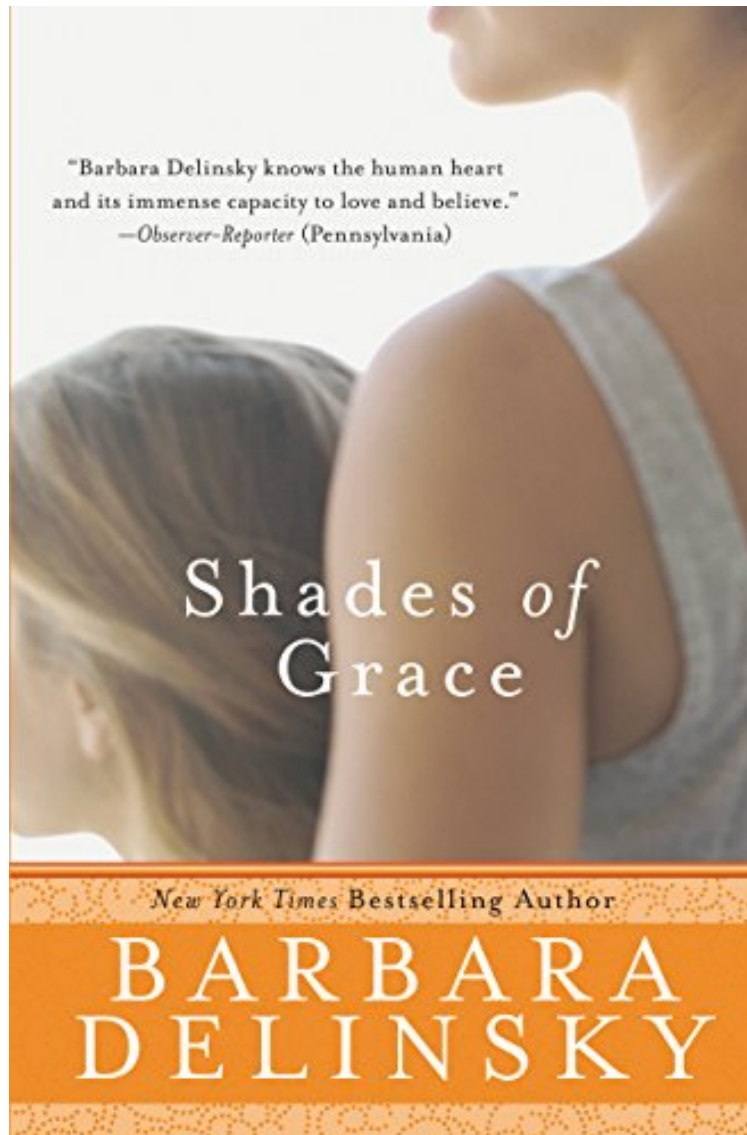


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[Mobile book] Shades of Grace: Novel, A

## **Shades of Grace: Novel, A**

**Barbara Delinsky : Shades of Grace: Novel, A** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shades of Grace: Novel, A:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. LOSING CONTROL: A TEST OF STRENGTHBy Laurel-Rain SnowWhat if the strongest, most controlled person you know starts to slowly and gradually lose control of her memories, her actions, and her life?This is the question Francine Dorian must face as her mother, well-known advice columnist Grace Dorian, is diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease.They were the Dorian women: three generations of attractive, strong, intelligent and accomplished women--Grace, Francine, and Sophie. Discovering that the life as they

knew it is unraveling, they must test their strength as never before. Denial is the first reaction for each of them. And then they must decide what to do about *The Confidante*, the advice column, so Francine begins ghost-writing it. Then there is the autobiography that Grace has contracted to write. Finding someone to write the book requires a lot more than one would think. In the process of writing, they must uncover the truth about Grace's early life and the secrets she has buried. Searching for the answers to their questions lead Francine, Sophie, and Robin (the ghost-writer of the book) down unexpected pathways. When the truths are uncovered, what will happen to the relationships between the women? What will happen to *The Confidante*? And how will all of these secrets change the future? Like many character-driven novels, these strong women captured my attention and held my interest all the way through. Even though I had figured out a great deal before I neared the end, I was still intrigued by how it all unfolded. An emotionally captivating read, I found *Shades of Grace: A Novel* to yield depth and the page-turning quality I want in a book. Five stars. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Actually 4-1/2 stars! One of Her Best! By mzglorybe Grace is 61 years old and at the onset of Alzheimer's. She is an advice columnist (like Dear Abby) with a strong following and a successful career. Her daughter and grand-daughter live with her in a big house and start noticing a change in her which they find hard to accept. The novel takes us through what each family member goes through, in dealing with this illness. Grace, writing things down so she doesn't forget, and trying to keep others from noticing her diminishing capacity. The same for her daughter, who has to start writing the column for her and keeping her Mom from making public appearances so that she doesn't embarrass herself, and so that the media and her audience won't have to know what is happening to her. It was a very moving part of the book when she does make one public appearance and forgets words which make it noticeable to all that something is going on. The entire novel engages the reader emotionally, and gives us a personal insight into dealing with this problem. In true Delinsky fashion, you feel a connection with the characters in her story that you don't forget long after you finish the book. I bought copies for 2 loved ones that are in similar situations, and one for myself, to remind me of how the affected person is feeling, so I will know how to deal with it if I ever have to go through it. It is not a reference book, but there's plenty to learn here just the same. It is a wonderful story of family love, unity, support and strength, and for romance readers, there is some of that too. Barbara Delinsky knows how to tie it all together to make reading a wonderful experience. She is one of my favorite authors. I look forward to each of her books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read this book! By Kpbookaddict I had just finished reading a very sad story and when I started *Shades of Grace*, I was nervous that I was going to be depressed again. However, Barbara Delinsky is unlike any other author. She took a sad topic, the slow loss of a mother to her daughter from AD and handled the book with such compassion and such insight. Francine's growth as a woman, her discovery of her inner strength and her love for her family are so moving. Even the minor characters are resolved in wonderful ways. What started for me as a possible depressing book, left me feeling hopeful, uplifted and yes, with a tear in my eye.

New York Times bestselling author Barbara Delinsky delivers a touching and heartfelt story in which love and devotion are put to the ultimate test, first published in 1996. Grace Dorian is *The Confidante*, America's favorite advice columnist. Her wisdom has helped to guide two generations including her daughter, Francine, and granddaughter, Sophie, who manage the vast Dorian empire and oversee the thousand details of Grace's world. But a national treasure is losing her brilliance. Her once razor-sharp mind is showing strain; her columns have begun to wander. Concerned about Grace's health and future, Francine must step in to fill her legendary mother's shoes and somehow also live her own life, which now suddenly includes her confusing feelings for Grace's handsome doctor and new worries about tempestuous Sophie, who needs more guidance than Grace's public.

From Publishers Weekly A tale of three women whose lives are affected by a tragic disease, Delinsky's (*For My Daughters*) latest novel adroitly pulls the heartstrings while exploring generational responsibilities. After years of giving advice in her nationally syndicated newspaper column, "The Confidante," domineering Grace Dorian, 61, has a problem she can't share even with her only child and dependable assistant, Francine. Some months after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Grace grudgingly permits handsome Dr. Davis Marcoux to tell her daughter the truth. But she still clings to one secret: the true identity of Francine's father. Francine is a divorced mother of Sophie, a 23-year-old diabetic, who also works on the column and has resented her grandmother as a rival for her mother's love. For her part, Francine is determined to protect "The Confidante" and keep the public—including an aggressive reporter, Robin Duffy—from discovering her mother's condition. She begins to ghostwrite the columns while also embarking on a romance with Dr. Marcoux. To help her mother write her promised autobiography, Francine hires Robin, whose own mother was one of Grace's ardent admirers. Delinsky creates only lukewarm suspense in Francine's and Robin's respective quests to unearth Grace's secret past, but readers will sympathize with the characters as each comes to grips with a life-changing situation. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal An advice columnist facing Alzheimer's graces the pages of this latest work from a top romance writer. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Sixty-one-year-old advice columnist Grace Dorian (think Dear Abby writ large) has had a seemingly charmed life, filled with fame, money, honorary degrees, and the loving support of her

daughter Francine, granddaughter Sophie, and Father Jim, the local priest. When handsome (and single) Dr. David Marcoux tells the family that Grace is in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, no one accepts his diagnosis. Then an automobile accident forces Grace's family and friends, and Grace herself, to begin to deal with the inevitable repercussions, both personal and professional, of her illness. Potboiler standards are easily met with the predictable romance, the requisite number of sex scenes, a "shocking" revelation about Grace's past, and the serviceable writing style. But the sadly accurate depiction of Grace, once active, forceful, and bright, losing all sense of herself and her connection to the world gives the book a solid context and makes it an excellent purchase for public library romance collections. Nancy Pearl