



Evidence of the Affair

Taylor Jenkins Reid

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The repercussions of an illicit affair unfold in this short story by bestselling author Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Dear stranger...

A desperate young woman in Southern California sits down to write a letter to a man she's never met—a choice that will forever change both their lives.

My heart goes out to you, David. Even though I do not know you...

The correspondence between Carrie Allsop and David Mayer reveals, piece by piece, the painful details of a devastating affair between their spouses. With each commiserating scratch of the pen, they confess their fears and bare their souls. They share the bewilderment over how things went so wrong and come to wonder where to go from here.

Told entirely through the letters of two comforting strangers and those of two illicit lovers, *Evidence of the Affair* explores the complex nature of the heart. And ultimately, for one woman, how liberating it can be when it's broken.

Evidence of the Affair Details

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From Reader Review Evidence of the Affair for online ebook

Angela M says

I read one book at a time and routinely read at the gym on the treadmill and bike, but the book I'm reading is a hard copy and I can't hold it as comfortably as my kindle. I had downloaded this short story/novella for free from Amazon thanks to my Goodreads friend Melisa so my dilemma was solved . I read this and can get back to my book . About this story - wow! I always enjoy epistolary novels and I wasn't sure how this would work as a short story, but it certainly did for me. It's engaging, sad, thought provoking with a surprisingly lovely ending.

Julie says

Evidence of the Affair by Taylor Jenkins Reid is a 2018 Amazon Original Stories publication.

Beginning in 1976, a written correspondence commences between the wife and husband whose spouses are having an affair with one another.

The epistolary story evolves from here to also include the letters exchanged by their spouses, revealing their thoughts and feelings as they continue with their marriages as though nothing was going on.

This a very short story, but packs a powerful, poignant, and emotional punch. How an author manages to cram so many turbulent feelings, and incredible character growth into such a small amount of space is remarkable.

I'm a short story skeptic most of the time, but this one is exceptional- but of course, so is the author.

I am once again sincerely indebted and grateful my friends on GR who posted reviews and recommended this book so highly. Otherwise, this one might have slipped under my radar.

So, I'm going to pay it forward- This one is easy to fit into your reading schedule and is included in your Kindle Unlimited subscription. Check it out- you'll be glad you did.

4 stars

Emily May says

This is a great idea, but it's a little more basic than I was hoping for from the author of The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo.

It's an epistolary novella, featuring letters exchanged between a man and a woman who have discovered their spouses are having an affair together. It is compelling enough to keep me wondering how it would end, but it's unfortunate that everything went pretty much exactly how I expected. No surprises here.

I was also a little put off by some of the gushy language. Carrie and David quickly become "I don't know what I would do without you" friends, which I suppose seems realistic given the circumstances, but it was a little too much. They wouldn't stop telling each other how amazing they are, and it grew repetitive and annoying.

Still... an interesting idea. I especially liked how - because it's told through letters - a lot of things happen off-page and we have to piece together events through what is revealed in their correspondence.

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Melanie says

"Alone in the world and alone in my marriage. Alone in love, really."

So, basically, I'm trying somewhat hard to hit 200 books this year. And last night I just couldn't sleep, so in the late hours of the night, I decided to read this short little novella to help boost my number. Holy shit, friends, I went into this book not expecting much, but came out weeping over its beauty.

This is a very short read, that is told completely in the format of letters from the late seventies. Letters between two cheating individuals, but, more importantly, letters between the spouses of those cheating individuals, who are sharing the letters they find between each other. Taylor Jenkins Reid is kind of known for pulling off some powerful and emotional twists in her stories, but I am in awe of how flawless she was able to do it in such a short number of pages!

"Dear Mr. David Mayer, My name is Carrie Allsop."

► **Carrie Allsop** - A stay at home wife, who has always been happy with her dependable, yet boring, husband. Even though she is constantly questioning her worth because she is thirty and still hasn't gotten pregnant in the decade she and her husband have been trying.

► **David Mayer** - High school teacher, who loves his wife and four sons more than anything in this world. But he has also been questioning his self-worth because money has been getting tighter and tighter.

And I just loved the completely taboo and unconditional friendship that these two form over a horrible situation. I love how they were each other's soundboards because no one else would even begin to understand what they are going through, the exact way that they understood it together. I don't know, this was just a really beautiful story. And I really love the way TJR ended this book, too. Legit perfection.

I think this book really has a good discussion about love, and how it is not always that perfect, Hallmark picture that so much of the world will have you believe. Real love can be complicated, messy, hard, and something that you have to work for every single day. And sometimes it can be filled with forgiveness. And I think this book really does a great job at touching on how easy it is for people to judge other's relationships, without having any empathy and without believe that something similar could ever happen to them.

“It is funny the crazy things our brains make up to save us from the truth.”

Overall, I really loved this. I was blown away and I will continue to read everything that TJR comes out with. She truly is becoming one of my favorite contemporary authors, and I think she is doing some really unique things with her writing. Also, as of today (December 14th, 2018) if you have Amazon Prime, this is FREE on Amazon US!

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Content and trigger warnings for infidelity and talk of infertility.

Matt says

I stumbled upon this piece by Taylor Jenkins Reid completely by accident—thank you Goodreads and the daily digest—as I noticed a number of my fellow readers were offering their praise. A fan of short stories and having come off a horrid few days of bad reading, I thought I would take a look, and am pleased I did. In a story that took under an hour to read, I was pulled into a collection of letters between Carrie Allsop and David Mayer. Carrie and David appear to be the unwilling victims of an affair their spouses are having, which has been discovered in a series of written letters. This being the 1970s, these letters are the primary evidence of the affair, though there are some hushed phone calls at times as well. The reader is pulled into the communication Carrie and David have about the actions of their spouses and the friendship that develops between them, as though they create their own spurned spouses club. There are also occasions when text of the ‘love letters’ are revealed to the reader, which only goes to fuel the narrative and provides some of the fodder to see how the amorous encounters are progressing over time. What started as an ‘FYI’ letter soon has David and Carrie agreeing to meet in person to discuss matters and share a meal as friends, but there is more to talk about that whispered telephone calls and mysteries found stuck in recipe books. Reid does a masterful job in this piece, comprised entirely of letters, conveying just how powerful the written word can be. Recommended for those who need a quick read over coffee, particularly those who have access to Amazon’s thorough digital library.

I choose not to spend a great deal of time writing about the structure of the story or the characters, as I tend to do with most of my reviews. Doing so will, unfortunately, tip my hand too much and spill too much of what Reid seeks to have the reader discover. What I can say is that Reid allows the reader to see just how troubling things can be in marital strain, even through the seemingly innocent collection of letters. In an era of digital communication, trysts take on a new level of secrecy—though I would say the text message is just as problematic as a written letter—while still stinging both the offender and victim in different ways. Small holes in a relationship can soon be massive craters and those who seek consolation in being the harmed party can be known to shed their victimhood unknowingly. Let Reid take you on this adventure, though worry not about being pulled into a massive undertaking. As I said, a quick coffee break read!

Kudos, Madam Reid, for a sensational piece that will surely have many flocking to Amazon to find it.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Larry H says

Dear Mr. David Mayer,

My name is Carrie Allsop. Please accept my apologies for contacting you out of the blue. I am writing to ask a quite humbling favor. I recently found some love letters in my husband's briefcase that I believe to be from your wife, Janet...

With those words, this potent short story by Taylor Jenkins Reid begins. It's December 1976, and Carrie Allsop has taken every last ounce of courage to write the man whose wife she believes is having an affair with her husband. She asks him if he has seen any letters her husband wrote to his wife, and if he has, she asks him to send them to her. She offers to do the same if he'd like to see his wife's letters, but Carrie imagines his first reaction to her letter will be shock.

"It is funny the crazy things our brains make up to save us from the truth. I have had fantasies that Ken is writing a screenplay and that he had the letters for research. Isn't that wild?"

David is, as Carrie surmised, shocked by the news she has sent him and is hurt by his wife's betrayal, but isn't really surprised, as their marriage had been strained for some time. As he tries to recover from the blow, he realizes that the only person he can rely on is Carrie, and the two begin to build a friendship based on such an awkward common bond.

As their friendship grows, they struggle with what to do. Should they confront their spouses, which could lead to the end of their marriages? Is that what they want? Do they want to start life anew, or do they want one more try at recapturing the magic they once had with their spouse? Both Carrie and David aren't sure what they want, and they aren't sure at first what their spouses' next steps will be either.

"I've always been struck by the idea that you can't be all that happy something has returned if it doesn't go away in the first place. But what if the thing goes away and never comes back?"

Reid holds your attention from start to finish, and throws in a bit of a twist for good measure. It's amazing how satisfying, how powerful, how poignant a story like this can be, and while I felt like she took you on a complete journey in a short number of pages, I'd still love to see what came next for these characters.

I read Reid's *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* a week or two ago, and it will undoubtedly be on my list of the best books I read this year. Once again, she proves she is an expert storyteller, and I can't wait to jump in and devour more of her fiction, because I love the way she writes.

Some may not love short stories, but this epistolary story feels more like a conversation than anything else. It won't take you long to read it, but definitely read it.

Christine says

4.5 stars rounded to 4 stars

This is a sublimely bittersweet short story written by an author who is new to me. I do not generally search out short stories, but the blurb attracted me and I was looking for a quick read.

This tale is told in letters. Letters between two people who have discovered that their spouses are engaged in an affair. There are also a few letters between the illicit lovers. There is the expected shock, angst, anger, hurt, and shame, along with some uplifting moments, courage, and even joy. If I had to describe the story with one word, it would be poignant. Beautifully poignant.

I thoroughly enjoyed this short story and expect it will stay with me for a long time. I am now eager to seek out Ms. Reid's novels.

Highly recommended.

Riley says

taylor jenkins reid is the only author who can fuck me up in under 50 pages

Sid says

My second book of Reid. But loved it as much as I loved The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo. As soon as I saw it in my news feed, got it downloaded and read within the last half hour. This is the story about a woman who after losing everything gains everything and in the process discovers her true identity. Hitting rock bottom sometimes acts as the U-turn giving you a new happy life rather than the useless one you were holding on to just because you didn't have enough courage to let go. Don't settle for anything less than you deserve in life. Be kind to yourself enough to let go and life will be kind towards you. Good book it was.

Warda says

But why wasn't this an actual novel?! There was so much to this short story, that I became quickly invested in it. I can only imagine what it would've been like if it was longer: heart-wrenching and gorgeous.

Theresa Alan says

This is good for a short story. When a woman, Carrie, discovers letters from a married woman named Janet to Carrie's husband, Ken, Carrie writes Janet's husband, David. David and Carrie find strength in one another as they try to figure out whether to confront their spouses or try to fix their respective marriages. The whole story is told via letters from the spouses that are being cheated on, as well as the letters their spouses have kept from one another and hidden—but not well enough. Because it's so short, you don't get to know the characters all that well, but if you're looking for a super-fast read, you could do worse.

For more reviews, please visit: <http://www.theresaalan.net/blog>

Chelsea Humphrey says

This was so good. No long review needed, just do yourself a favor and grab a copy. It'll be a worthy 30 minutes of your time, and it's currently free on Kindle Unlimited!

Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

10/10 do recommend reading this in the tub with a glass of wine and Fleetwood Mac playing softly in the background. SO DAMN GOOD.

Elyse Walters says

Totally.....*totally* engaging!!!!!!
...."Then I moved on to Daisy Jones and Carole King".

Melisa says

A great epistolary short story by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Free on Kindle Unlimited or with Amazon Prime!
