



Years, The

Nicholas Delbanco

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The Years is about the passage of time: from youth to middle age to the winter of life. Forty years after their intense but doomed college romance, Lawrence and Hermia meet again on a Mediterranean cruise. They fall in love even more deeply, but being in their sixties, with plenty of baggage, they wonder if marriage is the right move. When Lawrence visits Hermia's home on Cape Cod, she has one request: "Please stay." What happens when he does fills the rest of this wise and unforgettable novel.

With enormous sympathy and keen insight, Nicholas Delbanco follows Hermia and Lawrence through their years together and apart, in Los Angeles and New York, Michigan and Massachusetts, in frailness and in health. Old scores are settled; old wounds healed. A stunning, wise book about first and final love, *The Years* addresses the irrevocable end of life—and what ultimately endures.

Years, The Details

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Author : Nicholas Delbanco

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Angela Reese says

I received this as a Goodreads Book Giveaway and thank them for the opportunity to read it.

I was disappointed in this book. The preview of the book sounded light and interesting. When college sweethearts meet by chance on a cruise, they try to rekindle their love. It seemed that there was a lot of hesitations, a lot of misgivings and trying too hard to make it work. It sounded like the ruminations of a lonely widow neighbor. When he gets the chance to tell his story, he delves into minutiae and leaves out nothing. I found Hermia to be sarcastic and caustic and Lawrence to be too accommodating. It plodded along and I started counting the pages to the end.

Jennifer R Worthington says

ok read. sometimes hard to follow.

Laura Wolfe says

Novel as poetry

This book touched me and reminded me why I read: to be fully entertained, to learn, to discover great writers. I want everyone to read this book and comprehend how important events change us and unimportant people can dismantle us, and then it's time for our babies to make our decisions. This is the best book I've read in years.

Belle Ami says

The Years is a beautiful tale of a love that was lost and then found. Imagine meeting the love of your life in college and losing them. Then forty years later after failed marriages, children, career, you find them again, and it's all or more than you ever dreamed it could be. What next? Hermia and Lawrence are granted a new lease on life, another chance to fulfill the love that fate stole from them. The sands of time may be running out, but it's what they do with the time left to them that really matters.

Dolores says

I know that Nicholas Delbanco is a distinguished professor and author....maybe I'm too much of a lowbrow. I wanted so much to like this book, but I didn't.

The basic story tells of how two people meet on a Mediterranean cruise forty years after their college romance and know that they want to spend the rest of their lives together....and how THAT turns out. The first chapter captured my interest, but all the discourse following that seemed interminable. There was so much about wealthy people, foreign ports, travel itineraries, and above all, architectural information. So many characters were hopping in and out of beds and marriages...I just couldn't care about them.

I received this book free of charge from Goodreads First Reads and I do appreciate it. I'm sure many more intellectual readers will enjoy it....I'm sorry, but I didn't.

Susan Mackie Powers says

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you were able to reconnect with a former love, now that you're both older and wiser? "The Years" explores this concept. Lawrence and Hermia met in college and were instantly attracted to each other. Their romance moved forward, quickly and intensely, but did not last. Each moved on with his or her life, married, enjoyed careers, and divorced. Following his doctor's orders to take a vacation and rest after a medical scare, Lawrence goes on a cruise, and is strongly drawn to a beautiful woman who turns out to be his lost love, Hermia. Their shipboard romance picks up where their college romance left off, and Hermia invites Lawrence to visit her home in Cape Cod, where they had shared a magical weekend in college. At the end of his planned visit, Hermia asks Lawrence to stay. Their relationship blossoms into something deeper and more serious than either of them were ready for in college. They share good times and difficult times, but most of all love, as they blend into one another's families. Is love the same in your 60's as it is in your 20's? You'll have to read "The Years" to find out! I enjoyed it very much!

Pamela says

The premise of this book intrigued me. Who hasn't wondered what it would be like to reconnect with a first love after many years(in the characters ' situation - 40 years!) of being apart? Would we still feel that same attraction or would we have become two completely different people? I enjoyed the basic love story of Hermia and Lawrence rediscovering their relationship. Great writing moved this novel along in places where it could have been plodding. The other familial relationships are explored as well and those added another nice dimension to this plot. I enjoyed this book enough that I did not want to put it down and it was perfect reading on these cold snowy days. However, without using spoilers, I will say the latter part of the book left me pretty depressed. The end is designed to provide closure but I just felt sad. Aside from a few instances of obscene language (which, as usual, did not enhance the storytelling) I would still recommend this for anyone who wants to explore how unrequited love can be requited at last.

Linda Jones says

Sweet, but predictable.

Nenette says

The author, Nicholas Delbanco, is an award-winning literature professor, and has very good credentials, so I really wanted to like this novel. The blurb promises something that suits my taste: college sweethearts finding each other again by chance after more than forty years. Even with nothing else said, that short phrase alone caught my attention.

But...disappointment...boredom...these were what I felt and experienced while struggling to finish this book. What I thought would be a book of feelings of warmth and love turned out to be more of a textbook about architecture and arts. Often, I got lost in the storyline because of so many pages of discussions about a place's history of its art and architecture. Those pages robbed me of the chance to feel and be present in the story.

If this is a taste of Mr. Delbanco's style, then I'm not doing a repeat.

Doseofbella says

The Years

By: Nicholas Delbanco January 13, 2015

Published By: Little A Pages. 384

Copy Courtesy of Goodreads First Reads

Reviewed By: tk

A breathtaking journey of the deepest love possible.

Lawrence and Hermia meet in college. Their romance was ended when Lawrence graduated, leaving Hermia in her senior year to continue without him. For the next forty years they continue their separate lives, yet never once forgetting the other. They will carry each other in their hearts until a chance encounter on a cruise ship forty years later.

This story has made an incredible change in my life. I absolutely adore the relationship that this couple rekindles after so many years apart. I laughed, and cried through the entire story. I could only hope that my true love is still out there, and we would have half of what this couple has. I have hope once again.

Nicholas Delbanco is majestic, and stunning talent. The flow is smooth and flowing. The characters are so believable I felt that I knew them personally. If you enjoy an emotionally charged, unforgettable love story, this is for you. A must have in any library. I highly recommend this read! 5/5

Elyse Rudin says

Omg I go to write my review and apparently I hated this book. Thank goodness for memory loss as totally don't remember and I really enjoyed this time around. Go figure. A couple fall madly in love their senior year in college. He unexpectedly ends it and they go their separate ways. Fast forward 42 years and they are on the same Mediterranean cruise. They reconnect. Every other chapter is what transpired during the past 42 years. I found this book a very honest telling of growing old. I would recommend.

Julie Barrett says

The Years by Nicholas DeLbanco

Starts out and we learn about Lawrence and his younger years and during college, the people he meets. In his older days, he's suffered a heart attack and doctor recommends he goes on a cruise overseas where he does reunite with an old college friend.

They are both single and unattached and reminisce of their younger days.

Each of their lives we learn about in detail over the years. Love hearing of the architecture and design of things during the book.

Like how their go their own ways and we learn of their past and the reuniting of their lives once again.

Health and other obstacles come to light and family come back.

So many changes over the years as some come and go and health problems. Like how it ends and felt the author knew what a woman was going through even though he's a male. Very perspective. About the author is included at the end.

Free from IHG rewards

Di Wang says

It was a birthday gift along with my first Kindle that I binged through it in one weekend. The author tried really hard to convince the reader that it was the ultimate love between these two people got them back together after 40 years apart. He dedicated view points, life stories from both sides which was a good way to further explore the possibilities. But somehow I don't relate either of them, a total fairytale.

Teresa says

Long, verbose read. Underlying story somewhat depressing. Lots of background, tedious information that unless you are knowledgeable in art and art history, is pointless to the story. Makes for boring reading and skipped pages. Would not recommend.

Whitney Oakley says

Beautifully written and terribly frustrating

