



# Shades of Grace: A Novel

By Barbara Delinsky

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## Shades of Grace: A Novel By Barbara Delinsky

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.

*Shades of Grace* is a touching and heartfelt story in which love and devotion are put to the ultimate test—a classic from *New York Times* bestselling author Barbara Delinsky.

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## Shades of Grace: A Novel By Barbara Delinsky Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

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.

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From Library Journal

An advice columnist facing Alzheimer's graces the pages of this latest work from a top romance writer.

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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*

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**From reader reviews:**

**Sharon Bedgood:**

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