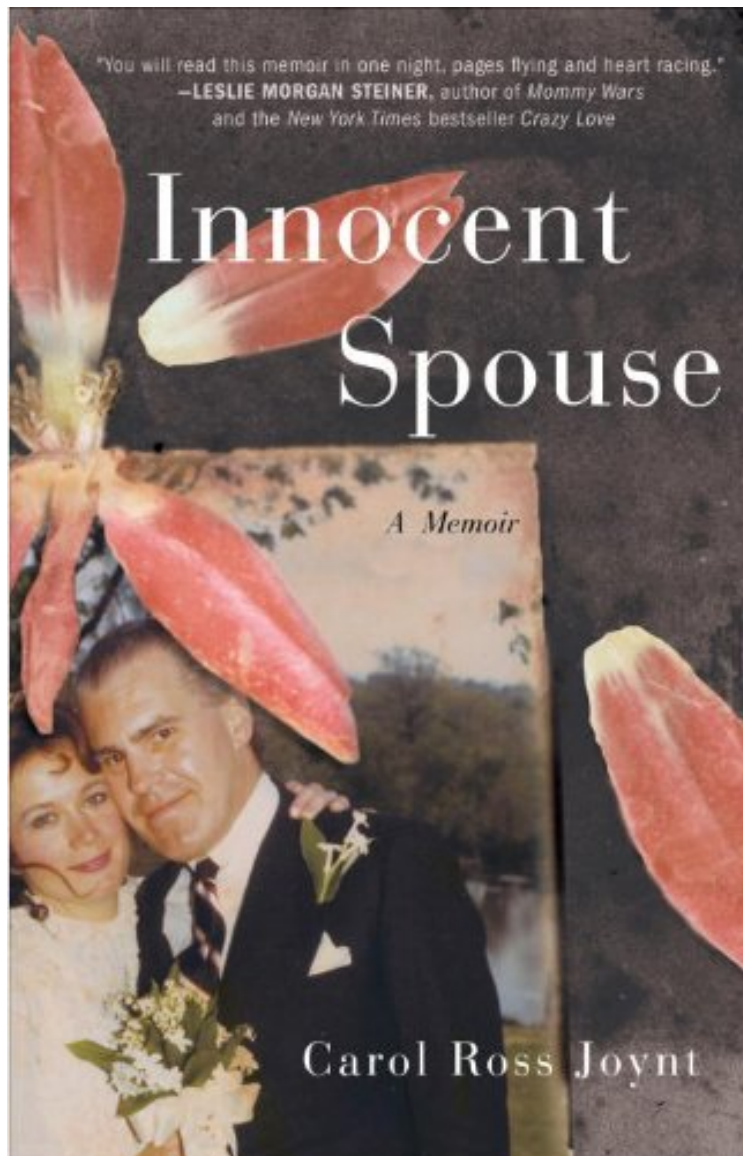


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## Innocent Spouse: A Memoir

*Carol Ross Joynt*

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**Carol Ross Joynt : Innocent Spouse: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Innocent Spouse: A Memoir:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Reads like a long Vanity Fair article By Outnumbered I enjoyed this for the Georgetown insider, tabloid style history it provided. But I finished this book and found myself wondering why I didn't feel more compassion for the author. This story is after all a story of tragedy - a husband is dead and a wife learns not only of a huge financial burden, but also of years of deceit. I think part the cause for my lack of compassion is the writing style I mention in the title of this review. It's written in the same somewhat clipped,

monotone style of a Vanity Fair piece. Not a style that really grabs for the heart strings. For reference, the author also writes for the New York Social Diary website, and one can see some parallels in style. I also didn't care for the fact that in her description of various challenges, she spends a lot of time talking about how she was wronged, but doesn't seem to adequately acknowledge how lucky she was. More specifically, lucky to be surrounded by a cast of friends and acquaintances that provide her with an extraordinary amount of assistance. Clearly not everyone can line up a world-class trial lawyer to work case pro bono. Not all of us are able to have Bob Woodward intervene on our behalf. In summary, this book conveys a sense of narcissism that doesn't enhance the telling of the story. Other reviewers have questioned whether the whole story is told in this book. I really couldn't say. I think of it as a story told by a one-time socialite, knocked a bit off her throne, who wants her story to the public in a way that reopens some of those old doors. So yes, it may come across as a bit of a whitewash. All said, an interesting enough book from a Georgetown/DC tabloid gossip perspective, but I was expecting more.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fairy Castle Built On Sand By prisrob Carol Joynt wants us to believe that her book about her life with her duplicitous husband should be a warning to all women. And, indeed it should. However, most women are not privy to well-placed friends, therapy, the best lawyers, and private schools for their children. This is a credible story, and I am sure she suffered, but somehow it is difficult to feel too sorry for her. Carol and her husband, Howard, lived the life of luxury, several homes in and around DC, trips, expensive cars and boats, designer clothing and glorious vacations. Until one day, Howard died and the truth of how they had been living became too real. Howard had a much smaller trust fund than he said, it appeared they were living on the proceeds of Howard's bar, Nathans. Bills at the bar/restaurant were not being paid because all the money was going to their upkeep. As Carol dug deeper, she found she needed to find a very good lawyer because she owed the IRS a great deal of money. She was able to beat that with the assistance of a lawyer who worked for the IRS and wrote the 'Innocent Spouse' bill. But, still she had to support her son and send him to private school. Shd did receive some money to keep her going. She tried to save Nathans and worked hard to support herself and her son, But, alas, there was too much to do to rev up the establishment, and she had to declare bankruptcy. She supports herself with media jobs, writing for the New York Social Diary and interviews with celebrities. This is an entertaining read at times, but could have used more editing. It is a cautionary tale for everyone, actually. We all should know what we are getting into in our relationships, and keep our eyes wide open at all times. Recommended.

prisrob 10-07-11 [[ASIN:B004J4WMCC Innocent Spouse: A Memoir] 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read About a Fabulous Woman By Grace E. This is the second time I've read Carol's story. After the first time I told every friend I knew what a remarkable turn of events for one single person this was. I'm still so impressed that a person can get through all these events .... Carol has and deserves my and everyone who reads this book's admiration. I saw her some time ago promoting this on the Today show. A writer couldn't come up with a novel this good....and this is an extraordinary women's true reality. She is a great inspiration to all women. I will continue to hold this book as one of my all time favorites. To Carol....I wish you well....you so deserve it! I was still in awe after the second time I read it.

What would you do if, just weeks after your spouse's sudden death, you found out he was keeping secrets? Big secrets. Secrets that could cost you millions of dollars—and brand you as a criminal. *Innocent Spouse* is an eye-opening memoir that asks a provocative and disturbing question: Is it possible to really know and trust someone, even your spouse?

Carol Ross Joynt was a successful television producer in Washington, D.C. Her husband, Howard, owned Nathans, a legendary restaurant in Georgetown. From an outsider's perspective, Carol and Howard lived a fairy-tale life—spending weekends at their Chesapeake Bay estate, rubbing shoulders with New York's and Washington's elite, and raising their beloved son, Spencer. But everything changed with Howard's sudden death when Spencer was only five years old. Like any widow, Carol was devastated because she lost the love of her life and her son's father. But soon Carol had much more to cope with than her grief and new life as a single parent. As she was forced to take over her family's legal and financial responsibilities, as well as run Howard's restaurant on her own, Carol discovered that her husband had secrets, and one of them, an almost \$3 million debt to the IRS, threatened to derail her entire life. And even though Carol didn't know anything about the tax fraud—finances had always been Howard's department—no one cared. As his surviving spouse, legally, Carol was responsible.

In *Innocent Spouse*, Carol shares her harrowing struggles with the IRS, as manipulative business colleagues and lawyers assumed the worst of her and friends turned their backs when her name became associated with scandal. Fighting to maintain a stable life for her son, Carol had to figure out how to preserve Spencer's happy memories of his father, even as their lives were shattered by his deceptions and lies.

But as Carol picks up the pieces of her fractured life and copes with her sadness and anger, she learns to become something she's never been before: self-sufficient. Poignant, eye-opening, and at times heartbreaking, *Innocent Spouse* is ultimately an inspiring story of strength and newfound independence in the face of loss and betrayal.