



## Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear

*Katharine Weber*

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**Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear** Katharine Weber

**A New York Times Notable Book of the Year**

**A Publishers Weekly Best Book of 1995**

Harriet Rose, twenty-six, is an American photographer just winning recognition for her work. A travel fellowship brings her to visit her best friend and former roommate, Anne Gordon, in Switzerland. In an ongoing letter to her boyfriend, Harriet reports on strange developments in Anne's life, most notably her affair with a much older married man, which seems to be leading to a disastrous conclusion. Before she can rescue Anne, events take a series of unexpected turns, and Harriet must reexamine her own life and past, and come to terms with the difficulties and possibilities of human relationships.

## **Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear Details**

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Author : Katharine Weber

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## From Reader Review Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear for online ebook

### **Kristy Dallas Alley says**

I liked this book, but it took me a long time to read for some reason. I just wasn't compelled to pick it up every time I had the chance. I think I would have enjoyed it more in my twenties.

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### **Andrea Lakly says**

Well written, but it walks over ground we've passed over many times before. Still, a good reminder that "it's not about you."

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### **Sarah says**

I didn't finish it, just didn't keep me involved and life's too short.

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### **Marie says**

I bought this book for 2 pounds in England, and it's been on my bookshelves for years. I read it as part of my "READ THE BOOKS YOU ALREADY HAVE INSTEAD OF GETTING NEW ONES FROM THE LIBRARY" project. (I still get books out of the library, of course, but I am doing my best to read some of the ones filling up our study.)

I liked this book more than I thought I would--it was very well written. It's the story of an American woman, Harriet, who goes to Geneva on a photography fellowship and visits an old friend. When she arrives, she discovers that said friend (Anne) is having an illicit affair with a much older man. The book starts out in the form of a rambling letter Harriet is writing to her boyfriend back home, and then it changes format into third person halfway through the book. Personally, I was much better able to relate to Harriet than to Anne (whose motivation to be with a man who treated her shabbily I could not understand at all), but I found it interesting to read about the friendship between two such different women, and how they relate to the men in their lives.

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### **Gwen says**

A most enjoyable read. Some of the reviews I had read felt that Weber was too descriptive, however, that is precisely what I enjoyed about her writing. I was kept entertained and interested for the length of time I was reading it. It seems to me that in life we must experience many things in order to have empathy with those we come in touch with. Weber gets into the very heart and soul of her characters and her fascination with mirrors gets my mind a whirling. Where is my camera?

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### **Melissa says**

The three stars are based solely on the fact that this book is well written. I just didn't like the story. It was kind of slow at first and then miserably slow in part II. I think the only sections I enjoyed reading, the only ones that I found emotional, were the ones near the end - written not from Harriet's point of view, but from Anne's. But then as soon as I started reading Anne's point of view I knew exactly what she would do and was mostly just waiting for it to happen.

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### **Ami says**

This is a damn impressive debut novel. Wow. As always with Weber, I'm more compelled by the events that happen in current time, as opposed to in flashback, but that is a small complaint.

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### **circle says**

I recommend triangle which is written by the same author. This book seems witty but it's still unreadable

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### **Mary says**

A New York Times Notable Book of the YearA Publishers Weekly Best Book of 1995Harriet Rose, twenty-six, is an American photographer just winning recognition for her work. A travel fellowship brings her to visit her best friend and former roommate, Anne Gordon, in Switzerland. In an ongoing letter to her boyfriend, Harriet reports on strange developments in Anne's life, most notably her affair with a much older married man, which seems to be leading to a disastrous conclusion. Before she can rescue Anne, events take a series of unexpected turns, and Harriet must reexamine her own life and past, and come to terms with the difficulties and possibilities of human relationships.

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### **Rosemary says**

I really enjoy this author-she is funny and clever and a good writer. The story begins with letters Harriet is writing to her boyfriend Benedict while she is staying with her friend Anne in Geneva. The letters are fun and full of sparkling insights, but Anne's affair with Victor is frustrating and ends up bringing the book down. The rest of the story can be a bit soap opera-y and didn't match the early expectations.

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### **astried says**

Eh..... so it ended. It started great, it started really intimate. Reading Harriet's letter, following her going tangent on her story telling, this was the part I enjoyed most. Afterwards i kept on feeling like seeing a complete parts w/ slightly skewed arrangement or perfect arrangement w/ some missing parts. The ending totally lost me and the last star promised to it.

I can't like Harriet even from the start. I think she's a meddling goody two shoes. From the first page I was thinking if she's one of those unreliable narrator or ugly puppet used by author to prove an opposite point. I was truly missing her voice at the beginning of part 2 and was dissapointed of the change; I couldn't understand why the story hadn't continued just as it was. Then I realized that now is the time of the uncovering of truth, where we will finally get to know the reality of her life. In a way it was so, all the fact was brought out; Yet somehow I felt let down. Her denouement felt so bland. there were things that should horrify me but just fell short.

What's up w/ her Bf anyway? His name. Oh my... And how he was potrayed as the perfect man n making their relationship a solid ideal one.. Come on, seeing all the relationships went to the dust all over the book did Weber actually expect us to swallow this? or is this a piece of sarcasm dagger thrown to the audience?

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### **Melissa says**

A bit of a disappointment. It begins so beautifully, but I lost interest by the end. Still, the American-in-Europe aspect was intriguing to me, and reminded me a bit of Diane Johnson's *Le Divorce*. Only not as good.

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### **Sterlingcindysu says**

A lot is going on in this short book. Weber packs tightly. Good character development--I love Harriet's stream of consciousness in writing a journal with jokes, asides, colorful bits. (And what happens to the rest of the joke, "a frog walks into a bank"?) I'm not sure what emphasis to put on Gay, Harriet's grandmother. Is she just the purveyor of correct habits, or there to show that life goes on through husbands and disappointments? Benedict is too good to be true, but there needs to be some juxtapositioning between all the other no-good deadbeats (which is almost ALL the other men). Miss Trout sure did "swim" upstream for years to get to her happy hunting grounds.

So poor Harriet has had quite a life. There was her indecision at her brother Adam's bedside, and lack of control when adults come in and out of her life (both physically and mentally). When she has a "situation" with a neighbor's baby, she Takes Action and does well. Again with her roommate Anne, she wants to Take Action but knows this time she may be butting into matters beyond her. She, herself is happy now, so does she really want to take on others' suffering? Would this be rubbing it into Anne's face? And does Anne see a father figure in Victor, a father who is happier and taking life by the horns instead of just giving up?

I'm not real sure what the title means. There's all the photographic references, but I'm guessing there's more than that. Harriet was in Geneva for (I thought) a seminar or showing, but no reference is made to that, so I kept expecting something more to be made of her work. I also had some confusion over what decade this was taking place in--too many references to Cary Grant and musicals, yet then faxing and computers were mentioned.

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I wasn't expecting that ending for Anne at all.

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**JodiP says**

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I just could not get into the story. I didn't care about the two women and their lives.

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**Dee says**

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Okay, I read it for the nutty title, but it was a surprisingly good story.

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**HP says**

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I love a book that makes me laugh out loud and then makes me really depressed. Ah, just like life!

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**Lilian says**

A story in three parts about a photographer trying to save her best friend from an affair. The first part is a journal of letters to her boyfriend, the second is about her childhood, and the last is the current time in an omniscient voice but mostly following her friend's story. For me, in the end, it became a question of who was saving whom. You really never completely know what is going on with somebody else, even if that person was your best friend.

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**Katie says**

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I hadn't heard of this book before, but when I had to look up this author for work, I found her website and wanted to read more. Good book--not a ton of "action" per se, but great well-developed characters!

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**skein says**

I read this on a trip to Vermont, which is about as far (politically and geographically) as one can get from my home state without falling into the ocean, or Canada. It was a gloriously sunny day of the sort one can only get at higher latitudes -- the light seems closer, somehow; why would that be?

So I sat on a bench in the sun, gave myself a nice burn, and cried.

I also dog-eared every other page (this, in a library book. I am a terrible terrible person.)

Here's where I say that it's a debut novel and very very good, though a first novel from a very very good author is still a first novel; and here's where I apologize for my rating system, which makes sense to no one but myself and places *Pride and Prejudice* on par with *Objects* (the latter is better-written); and here's where I apologize, again, for my inability to do any justice to Weber's writing and -- is scope too pretentious a word for such an unpretentious novel? -- her scope.

This is why it's good, why Weber is good: she is not retreating. She says: horrible horrible things will happen and you will have to deal with them. You created the horror - unwillingly, unwittingly; but now it is here and it is your fault. You will live with this. You have no choice. And you will not forget, and you will do it again.

Le Guin called this "equilibrium", capital E, which is a beautiful and unwieldy word for such a deeply nasty, treacherous goblin.

This - that creation of horror, through our essential forgetful sloppiness - is wholly selfish. And even more so, says Weber (and I agree) is that we can forget about it; we can love; and we call that love more important than the evil we've done.

*"Benedict: you are my You."*

Oh, my god.

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### **Andria says**

This was more in the 2.5 to 3-star range until the last 50 pages. The reviews all hailed this novel's wit, and there were allusions to (and a complimentary jacket blurb from) Iris Murdoch, so I felt like maybe I was missing something by finding the writing, while stylistically solid, to be wasted on a pointless plot and half-formed characters. Written in three different parts and points of view (Part 1: first person, present; Part 2: third person close on 1 character, past; Part 3: third person divided between two characters, present), I thought the entire middle section was incongruous and superfluous, although it would have been an interesting story on its own. I might be convinced to try some of this author's later work, but I wouldn't recommend this one.

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