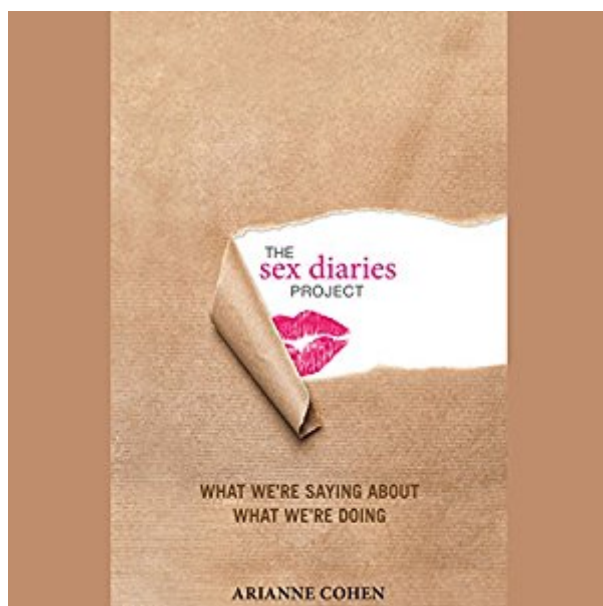


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# The Sex Diaries Project: What We're Saying About What We're Doing



## Synopsis

In the tradition of *The Vagina Monologues* and *PostSecret*, this provocative collection takes a peek behind bedroom doors - satisfying our insatiable desires to look into the private lives of ordinary people. Arianne Cohen spent four years collecting 1,500 Sex Diaries and in this book she takes us on a tantalizing tour of American bedrooms through the all-new, provocative, often moving, sometimes shocking, always entertaining real diaries of 40 Sex Diarists. From the Madly-in-Love 17-Year-Old Who Might be Pregnant to the Cheating Father of Three and the Grandma Who Is Perfectly Happy Alone, these tales of love, lust, longing and leaving will shock, titillate, and educate. Cohen serves as tour guide, drawing on her deep database of Sex Diaries for her incisive and illuminating commentary. Cohen was the first editor of the Sex Diaries column, a popular feature in *New York* magazine, editing it from 2007 to 2010. Her work regularly appears in *Marie Claire* and *The New York Times* and she is a contributing editor at *Woman's Day*. She is executive producing a TV reality series based on this book. Presents a groundbreaking portrait of relationships in America - including myriad options beyond single, dating, and married. Includes Sex Diaries of straight, gay, bi, single, married, young, and older Sex Diarists, published here for the first time. Gives listeners tips on how to evaluate their own relationships and sex lives. Sex is everywhere in our culture - yet how people best connect and disconnect is largely a mystery. The Sex Diaries Project turns the lights on to reveal the secrets that lie behind closed bedroom doors.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book turned out better than I thought it would be. Though it's titled Sex Diaries, it's really about relationships. It seems when people give themselves permission to write about their sex lives, they are more open and direct about themselves and their partners. Some parts of Cohen's analysis of the dairies tend to drag on a little too long, but just feel free to skip what you don't want to read. If you've been in several relationships, I guarantee there will be diary entries you can relate to, and you won't feel alone about some of your taboo habits or fantasies.

Such a great concept followed by such a great book. I did my own journal and it taught me a lot about myself and helped me find myself in this crazy world. After reading this book my relationship with my "partner" has improved. At first I wanted this status quo love and partnership but that ended with me confused and hurt. After seeing how love and life works outside my own perception we are back to "seeing" each other but with a new approach. It's causal most of the time with occasional bits of something more but not enough to make it stressful and confusing. This book really helped me make sense of relationships and love and has given me a great perspective on how the secret love lives of the world operate. Easy, fast read full of invaluable information and stories.

I ordered this book after seeing a positive review in The Week. It isn't what you might expect or at least what I expected. I thought I was going to read a lot about people's different sex lives. Instead, the diaries and the author's insights offer explanations of why people lead such different sex lives and what makes for a successful couple. It's good bedtime reading and fun to share with a partner.

I just was not interested in this book. It was dull and definitely uninformative thank you for asking. I would not recommend it at all

This book should be called the Relationship Diaries. Although there is the odd bit of sex, it's mostly different people talking about the daily scene with their Significant Other. Mildly interesting but not very erotic. If you're interested in other people's sex lives, try "Sex: Real People Talk About What They Really Do" by Harry Maurer.

This is a book that will be enjoyed the most by those with high levels of intrinsic curiosity about other people's sexual lives. I read this book while I was trying the website that the author runs. This book is interesting in that you are reading other people's notes about their sexuality. It is a bit dull because it is pretty much reading reading other people's snippets of their sexuality. The author

encourages diarists to write tweet length notes. Some of them are quite long despite this, but it reads like you are reading someone's twitter feed of their life. If you are into that, then you'll like the book a lot. Otherwise it can be a bit dull in that it is very skeletal and simple stories of people. It is a bit simple in its writing, and it lacks depth. The author inserts herself into the synthetic sections - her findings are written in the first person - and while it is her project, it does seem a bit weird. With that said, there are some interesting insights. She divides the diarists into three categories, based on what people seem to prioritize: The Lovers, The Aspirers, and The Partners. Lovers are the head-over-heals types, Aspirers are those who have goal-oriented lives and relationships, and Partners are what other authors would call companionate love. She argues that our language and orientation treats relationships as on/off, despite finding that many relationships are varying degrees of non-monogamous. Sociologists have been finding this too. The thing is, there will be one paragraph of synthesis, some diaries, another paragraph of synthesis, some diaries. The synthetic paragraphs are sort of previews and descriptions of how it fits her thesis. On the bright side, she lets the diaries speak for themselves. This is great, but after a while all the diaries seem to run into each other. The other thing to note is that the book seemed heavy on the self-marketing even within its own pages. A bit of a turn off for me, as I do not really appreciate that style, but your mileage may vary. Truth be told, I struggled to finish the book. I study people for a living (I am a PhD student in sociology) so my sense of "Meh" might be an occupational hazard. It's a good and interesting book; it's just not amazing.

What a great book on what most people consider such a "taboo" subject... but it's really what almost everything thinks about, just doesn't talk about. The author didn't just compile a bunch of deep-dark secret diaries, she artfully choose the diaries of people (all anonymous, of course) who represent the every day people in our lives. Ms. Cohen does a great job of explaining each diary and why it was chosen. So, for a great read on what were really doing, I highly suggest buying this book!

I've found myself discussing this book with several different people since reading it. It's an interesting read and I loved having it in kindle format.

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