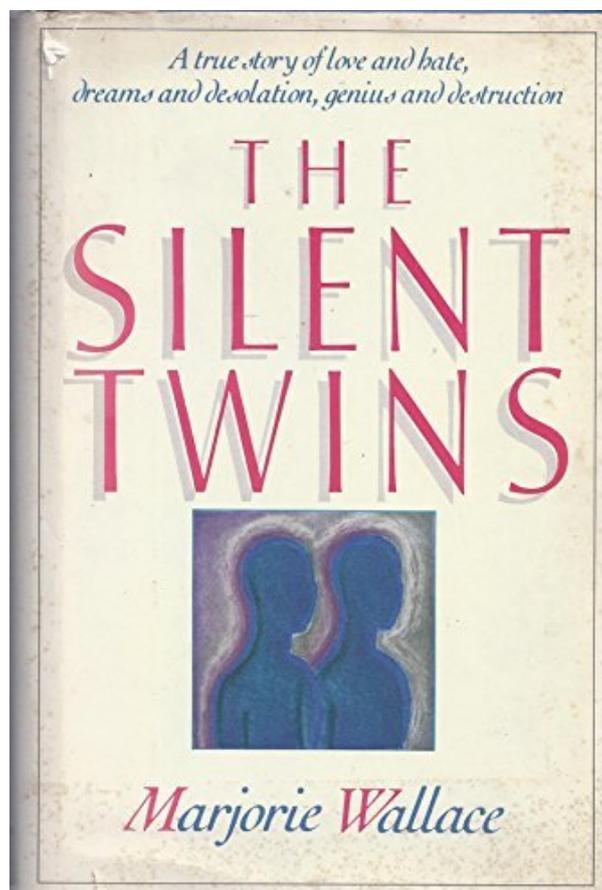


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LOVE AND HATE, DREAMS AND
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*A true story of love and hate,
dreams and desolation, genius and destruction*

THE SILENT TWINNS



Marjorie Wallace

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From Library Journal

This true story focuses on the young adult years of identical twin girls. June and Jennifer isolate themselves from family and society, sinking into a world of interdependency, fantasy, and obsessive game-playing, until an arson spree lands them in a hospital for the criminally insane. The fascination of this tale lies in the discrepancy between the twins' silent, emotionless facade and the rich creativity and passion that spills out endlessly in their writing. The author has reconstructed their story from their extensive diaries, in which they compulsively explore their lives and the condition of the world as they perceive it. Again and again, they express both their love and hatred for each other and their desire yet inability to become separate individuals. This book is written by a sympathetic journalist for a general audience. Amy D. Goffman, Registered Physical Therapist, Charlottesville, Va.

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Review

"Strange, riveting... Thanks to Marjorie Wallace, thanks to the twins' incorrigible brilliance, we now have some idea of what it is like to stand in front of a dark mirror" London Review of Books "A remarkable (and finally tragic) story which, in its depth, penetration and detail, no less than its extraordinary subject matter, must be seen as outstanding, a testimony to something extraordinary in the author herself" New York Times Review of Books "A compelling and tragic story" Mail on Sunday "Breathtaking" Independent

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When identical twins, June and Jennifer Gibbons were three they began to reject communication with anyone but each other, and so began a childhood bound together in a strange and secret world. As they grew up, love, hate and genius united to push them to the extreme margins of society and, following a five week spree of vandalism and arson, the silent twins were sentenced to a gruelling twelve-year detention in Broadmoor. Award-winning investigative journalist Marjorie Wallace delves into the twins' silent world, revealing their genius, alienation and the mystic bond by which the extremes of good and evil ended in possession and death.

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- Brand: Simon & Schuster
- Published on: 1986-10-15
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- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Hardcover
- 230 pages

Features

- Great product!

From Library Journal

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

omg you are SUCH a Jen!

By Rachel Berlingeri

It's been a couple of years since I've read this, but I still think of the twins at least a couple of times a week. This is 100% the craziest (true) story you will ever read.

I would suggest buying a few copies because you will probably give yours away to someone because you NEED to have someone else read it so you can talk about how insane everything is.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Amazing book, awful photograph quality

By TrueCrimeBuff

The one reason I did not rate four stars is because the pictures in the book are difficult- some are impossible to see. It may be the paper or the quality; many of the pictures are too dark thus making it impossible to really get a feel of who these twins were, and their environment.

Otherwise, the book is impeccably researched by the author and well-written. I won't go into the details of what the book is about - too many reviews do this already - but then, it is hard to explain. It is not just about these two amazing women, but about family values and dynamics, sisterhood, mental health, the legal system, the dynamics of small towns, and bullying ...

I found the twins to be incredibly creative and it's a shame their work was not recognized by anyone else except the author. Wallace digs deep, and then deeper, into their story without pity or remorse, with respect for all involved. She is a TRUE journalist and gifted author.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Chilling, disturbing, insightful.

By Centaur

Grew up hearing about the silent twins because of their Barbadian roots. Fascinating that their relationship & a study of it has no doubt shifted the paradigm of the then existing body of research about Twins' interactions & the expected patterns of their lives. June Gibbons is living proof of that paradigm shift. A riveting, informative read, which will no doubt lead to further reading on the topic. A nod to Ms. Wallace, who in a sense became & remains their sturdy champion.

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