

Grief, Unedited

February 14, 2011

The New York Times:

EVER since Joan Didion's book "The Year of Magical Thinking" began its long run as a best seller in 2005, a number of first-person accounts of losing a husband have been published. Among them are Kate Braestrup's "Here If You Need Me," Anne Roiphe's "Epilogue" and Kay Redfield Jamison's "Nothing Was the Same." This week, they are being joined by Joyce Carol Oates's memoir "A Widow's Story," which recounts the death of her 77-year-old husband, Raymond Smith, from complications of pneumonia in 2008. While these memoirs are often moving, they are also highly subjective snapshots that don't teach us much about how we typically grieve, nor more important, for how long.

Read the whole story: [*The New York Times*](#)