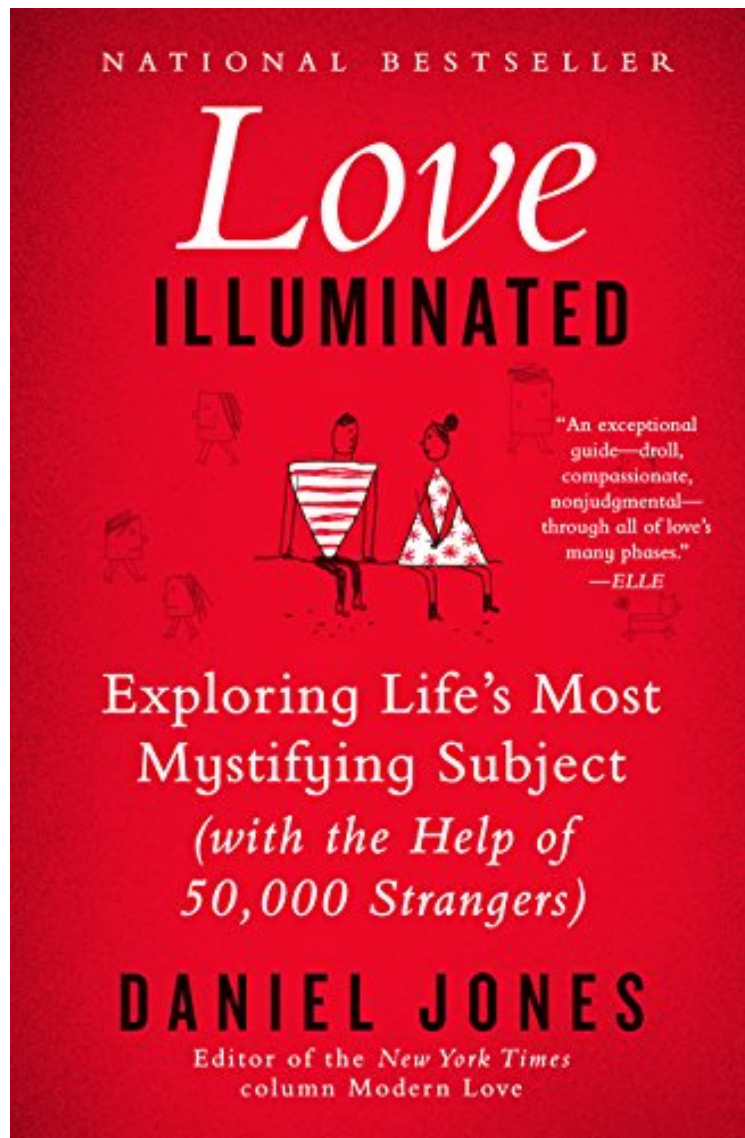


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## Love Illuminated: Exploring Life's Most Mystifying Subject (With the Help of 50,000 Strangers)

Daniel Jones

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**Daniel Jones : Love Illuminated: Exploring Life's Most Mystifying Subject (With the Help of 50,000 Strangers)**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love Illuminated:  
Exploring Life's Most Mystifying Subject (With the Help of 50,000 Strangers):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, enlightening, and mostly depressing  
By CaraI, like most other girls, grew up on Disney fairy tales. Naturally, I presumed, up until I was 15, that a magical prince was going to fly in through my window one day and tell me I am the most beautiful girl he has ever seen before whisking me away into the sunset. Obviously that didn't happen, and over the years, I have adopted a more realistic approach to love. Reading this book was extremely enlightening, in that it points out the realism of love and marriage very bluntly. The author doesn't try to sugarcoat things or make things sound better than they seem - he writes it as he sees it. The truth is, relationships are hard. Love is hard. Marriage is hard. But, like all things in life, a little effort every day goes a long way. Daniel Jones talks about each stage of a relationship, and illuminates certain truths with anecdotes and stories from his stint as the editor of a relationship column on the NY Times. I think it's important to go into this book with a positive mindset; there is a lot to be learnt about how to be a better partner (or a better person in general), as long as you don't let the depressing undertones of the book get to you.  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable, unassuming, transparent, and often quite funny.  
By rjhDaniel Jones has given us one of the most enjoyable transparent texts on the subject, without being overly Psychoanalytic, Anthropologic, faith-based, or, thank God, Leo Buscaglia-ish. With his unassuming almost self-deprecating POV, and correspondence from 50,000 contributing readers, he helps his readers navigate the traditional as well as the modern scenarios that we are forever prone to entangle ourselves in as we struggle to find intimacy. A rare book on the topic that men will enjoy, not unlike spending an evening with an old friend who has become very knowledgeable on the topic of love. I wish I'd read it when I was twenty-five.  
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A smart contemplation of the mysteries of love  
By Isabelle ForbesA devoted reader of Modern Love, I am always inspired by the unusual love stories Daniel Jones publishes in his column. Contemplating his own life experience and the thousands of strangers' stories he has read as an editor, Jones gives us "Love Illuminated," an examination of different aspects of love, from the chase to staying together to coming apart. Unlike so many books on the subject, "Love Illuminated" does not reduce love into a list of instructions on how to find your mate or stay married. Instead, the book elucidates wildly different experiences of love, all of which lead to revelations about the self, if not always the fairytale ending. Full of wisdom, this is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in the maddeningly complicated subject of relationships.

As the editor of the New York Times' popular Modern Love column, Daniel Jones is privy to the deepest personal revelations of tens of thousands of strangers. In *Love Illuminated*, he uses his unique perspective to tease apart life's most mystifying subject. Drawing from the 50,000 tales of love that have crossed his desk, Jones traces the arc of human relationships through ten phases, starting with the pursuit, sense of destiny, vulnerability, connection, and trust of new love, and then turning to the practicality, monotony, infidelity, loyalty, and wisdom of love matured. With empathy and wry humor, he takes readers on an enlightening journey through the highs, lows, and enduring unknowns of this universal experience that rattles the head and stirs the heart.

"A provocative, insightful, and deeply humane meditation on 'life's most mystifying subject'... Jones ... proves an exceptional guide -- droll, compassionate, nonjudgmental -- through all of love's many phases." (Elle)  
From the Back Cover  
Love is unrivaled in its power to thrill, crush, and sustain. No subject in human history has been more thoroughly examined. And yet, as desperately as we have tried to unlock love's mysteries—to "decode" it through scientific experimentation, philosophical inquiry, and even mathematical algorithms—do we really understand love any better today than Shakespeare did nearly five hundred years ago?  
As the editor of a column about love in the New York Times, Daniel Jones has been privy to the deepest personal revelations of tens of thousands of strangers. Deluged with stories of scheming cheaters, hopeless romantics, racy texts, and fierce devotion, he has spent much of the past decade wading through love's muck and majesty—and has taken plenty of notes along the way. In *Love Illuminated*, he uses his unique perspective to tease apart life's most mystifying subject. Drawing from the 50,000 tales of love that have crossed his desk, Jones traces the arc of human relationships through ten phases, starting with the pursuit, destiny, vulnerability, connection, and trust of new love, and then turning to the practicality, monotony, infidelity, loyalty, and wisdom of love matured. With empathy and wry humor, he takes readers on an enlightening journey through the highs, lows, and enduring unknowns of this universal experience that rattles the head and stirs the heart.  
As Jones explains, "Love is about curiosity, not certainty. It's about tossing oneself overboard into the wild seas, not remaining safely on deck." In *Love Illuminated*, he pulls us into the depths of love in all its contradictions and complexities, offering glimmers of understanding along with the comforts of shared experience.  
About the Author  
Daniel Jones has edited the Modern Love column in the Sunday Styles section of the New York Times since its inception in October 2004. His books include two essay anthologies, *Modern Love* and *The Bastard on the Couch*, and a novel, *After Lucy*, which was a finalist for the Barnes Noble Discover Award. His writing has appeared in the New York Times, Elle, Parade, Real Simple, Redbook, and elsewhere. He lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, with his wife, writer Cathi Hanauer, and their two children.