



The Life Before Her Eyes

By Laura Kasischke

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke

Diana stands before the mirror preening with her best friend, Maureen. Suddenly, a classmate enters holding a gun, and Diana sees her life dance before her eyes. In a moment the future she was just imagining--a doting wife and mother at the age of forty--is sealed by a horrific decision she is forced to make. In prose infused with the dramatically feminine sensuality of spring, we experience seventeen-year-old Diana's uncertain steps into womanhood--her awkward, heated forays into sex; her fresh, fragile construction of an identity. Together with the sights and sounds of renewal, we experience the tasks of Diana's adulthood: protecting her beloved daughter and holding onto her successful husband.

An acclaimed writer and poet, Laura Kasischke has crafted a consciousness that encompasses the truth of a teenager's world and the profound transformation of that world at midlife. Resonant and deeply stirring, *The Life Before Her Eyes* finds piercing beauty in the midst of a nightmare from long ago that echoes like a dirge beneath each new spring.

↓ [Download The Life Before Her Eyes ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Life Before Her Eyes ...pdf](#)

The Life Before Her Eyes

By Laura Kasischke

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke

Diana stands before the mirror preening with her best friend, Maureen. Suddenly, a classmate enters holding a gun, and Diana sees her life dance before her eyes. In a moment the future she was just imagining--a doting wife and mother at the age of forty--is sealed by a horrific decision she is forced to make. In prose infused with the dramatically feminine sensuality of spring, we experience seventeen-year-old Diana's uncertain steps into womanhood--her awkward, heated forays into sex; her fresh, fragile construction of an identity. Together with the sights and sounds of renewal, we experience the tasks of Diana's adulthood: protecting her beloved daughter and holding onto her successful husband.

An acclaimed writer and poet, Laura Kasischke has crafted a consciousness that encompasses the truth of a teenager's world and the profound transformation of that world at midlife. Resonant and deeply stirring, *The Life Before Her Eyes* finds piercing beauty in the midst of a nightmare from long ago that echoes like a dirge beneath each new spring.

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #822955 in Books
- Published on: 2002-11-11
- Released on: 2002-11-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .74" w x 5.25" l, .59 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 280 pages

 [Download The Life Before Her Eyes ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Life Before Her Eyes ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This third novel by Michigan author Kasischke (*Suspicious River*) opens with a shocking scene from a Columbine-like school massacre. Diana and her best friend are confronted by a schoolmate killer, but only Diana is spared. Fast-forward 20 years: Diana, now middle-aged and still beautiful, is a housewife and artist living in the same idyllic university town with a handsome professor-husband and a young daughter. She has seemingly repressed her memory of the event as well as her survivor's guilt, but her perfect world and her grip on reality are both starting to crack. These scenes are imbued with that sense of eerie apprehension found in a good horror flick. Woven through the book is a flashback narrative of Diana's sunny but empty-headed adolescent days. The novel plays teenage Diana's youthful illusions of immortality and beauty against the shifting, uneasy reality of middle age. Kasischke, also a published poet, writes prose that is dreamy and lyrical. This is one book you won't want to put down. Highly recommended for all popular fiction collections.

- Reba Leiding, James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg, VA

Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Disturbing fiction (*Suspicious River* 1996, and *White Bird in a Blizzard*, 1999) is fast becoming prizewinning poet Kasischke's hallmark. Her third novel opens with a haunting scene set in the girls' washroom of a high school. Diana is goofing in front of the mirror with her best friend, Maureen, "when they hear the first *dot-dot-dot* of automatic gunfire. It sounds phony and far away." They are eventually confronted by the gunman, a fellow classmate whom "they'd never even really noticed." He asks them a terrible question, "Which one of you girls should I kill?" Kasischke then juxtaposes scenes from 17-year-old Diana's life with scenes from her apparent future as a 40-year-old wife and mother. In the final chapter, however, the author ambushes the reader with a shocking revelation about Diana's fate. Whether the novel is viewed as a cheap narrative trick (there will be plenty of readers crying foul) or an imaginative exploration, there's no denying that Kasischke is a fearless writer. *Joanne Wilkinson*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

PRAISE FOR *THE LIFE BEFORE HER EYES*

"Hauntingly original . . . A tour de force."--*O Magazine*

"Potent and poetic storytelling. Such is the agility of [Kasischke's] writing that it can encompass both a heinously nihilistic act and a most magical . . . outcome."--*Elle*

"Poetic . . . A novel that takes on deep matters of life and death; conscience and consciousness; family, love, and friendship."--*Los Angeles Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ramona Johnson:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a book your ability to survive improves then having a chance to stand up than others is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular *The Life Before Her Eyes* book as a basic and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Patricia Sax:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of activity that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading books so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new details. When you read a publication you will get new information because a book is one of numerous ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you more imaginative. When you look at a book especially a tale fantasy book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you are able to share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this *The Life Before Her Eyes*, it is possible to tell your family, friends along with soon about your reserve. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them read a publication.

Emily Ferrell:

Many people spend their time frame by playing outside together with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to pass your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book can really be hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like *The Life Before Her Eyes* which is having the e-book version. So, try out this book? Let's see.

Brittany Gonzalez:

This *The Life Before Her Eyes* is a fresh way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information since it relieves your hunger for info. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having a little bit of digest in reading this *The Life Before Her Eyes* can be the light food for yourself because the information inside that book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a reserve especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So, don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book variety for your better life and also knowledge.

Download and Read Online *The Life Before Her Eyes* By Laura

Kasischke #TF3LH1QI6Y5

Read The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke for online ebook

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke books to read online.

Online The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke ebook PDF download

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke Doc

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke Mobipocket

The Life Before Her Eyes By Laura Kasischke EPub