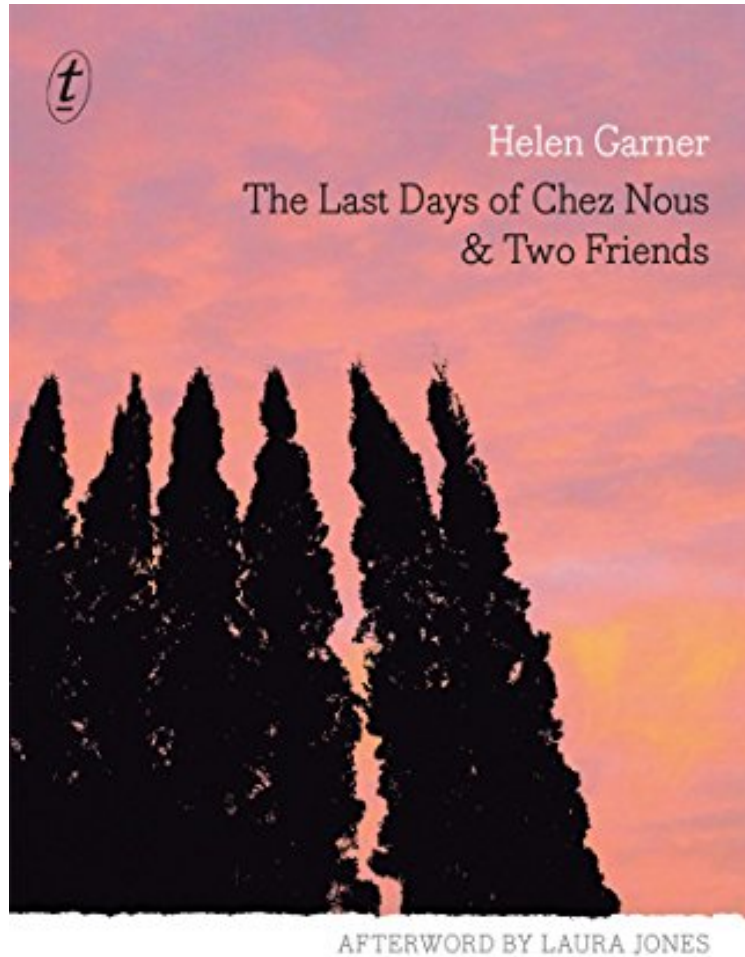


The Last Days of Chez Nous Two Friends

Helen Garner

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Helen Garner : The Last Days of Chez Nous Two Friends before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Days of Chez Nous Two Friends:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended!By Cloggie DownunderThe Last Days of Chez Nous Two Friends is a reissue of a book by award-winning Australian author and journalist, Helen Garner. It was first published in 1992, with a preface by the author. This Text Classics edition also features an insightful Afterword by internationally renowned screenwriter Laura Jones. Chez Nous and Two Friends are both screenplays.The Last Days

of *Chez Nous* was written in 1992, produced by Jan Chapman and directed by Gillian Armstrong. Vicki, younger sister of Beth, returns from an extended overseas stay to the house where Beth lives with her French husband, JP, and her sixteen-year-old daughter, Annie. While, on the surface, it seems to be a happy household, it is soon apparent that there is an undercurrent of tension. When Beth leaves on a road trip with her father, the dynamics of the household change. *Two Friends* was written in 1986, produced by Jan Chapman and directed by Jane Campion. Louise and Kelly are fourteen, best friends who have been accepted into City Girls High School. The story covers a ten-month period of their lives, a time of significant upheaval, and is told in reverse, in five parts. This means that the reader/viewer knows the outcome of the story and the reasons for that outcome are gradually revealed. In her preface, Garner explains how and why she came to write these screenplays, and how different the process is from writing a novel, or a non-fiction book. As the link between the authors mind and the screen, a screenplay sits in a unique position. Descriptions are often quite sparse, and Garner explains how important the actors interpretation is in bringing the authors message to the audience. As screenplays, the lack of Garners usual rich prose means that these stories rely mainly on the dialogue. It is therefore a testament to Garners talent that the humour and pathos shine through, and even for those who have not seen the final product, the result is easily brought to mind. The stories are absorbing, the preface, quite fascinating. Recommended!

These screenplays showcase the range of one of Australias greatest writers. *The Last Days of Chez Nous* was directed by Gillian Armstrong in 1991, and *Two Friends* by Jane Campion in 1986. These funny, sharp observations of relationships and friendships are as intimate and engrossing as Helen Garners acclaimed novels.

About the Author
Helen Garner: Helen Garner was born in 1942 in Victoria, Australia. She has published and won several prestigious awards for her novels (*Monkey Grip*, *Spare Room*), short stories, essays, and feature journalism. She received the inaugural Melbourne Prize for Literature in 2006. Her book *This House of Grief*, was named Best True Crime book in the 2015 Ned Kelly Awards, and is an IndieFab finalist. In 2016 Helen Garner was awarded the Windham-Campbell Prize for Non-Fiction.
Laura Jones: is an internationally renowned screenwriter, whose feature credits include *An Angel At My Table*, *Oscar and Lucinda*, *High Tide*, *The Well* and *The Portrait of a Lady*. She received the inaugural Australian Writers Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.