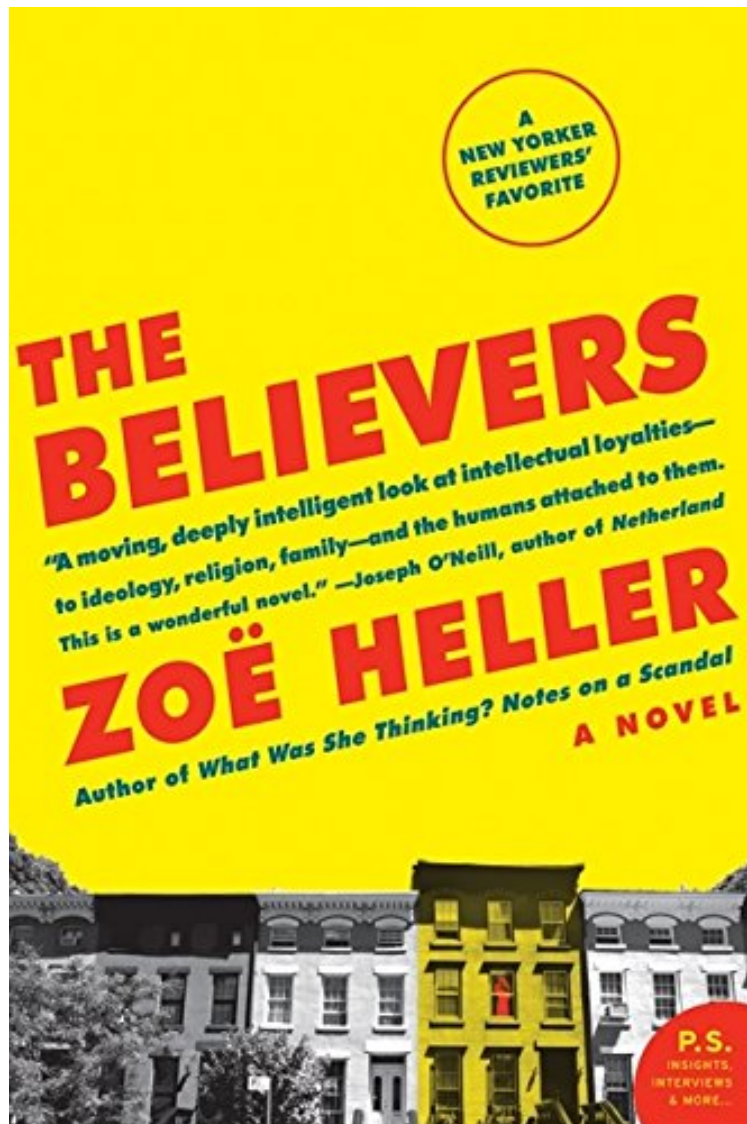


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## The Believers: A Novel

Zoe Heller

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#1345096 in Books 2010-03-01 2010-01-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .83 x 5.311, .61 #File Name: 0061430218368 pages | File size: 24.Mb

**Zoe Heller : The Believers: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Believers: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. because it wasn't terribly memorable.By Tricia O.The story is about family members struggling to find themselves, after the family 'glue' suffers a stroke and they're left to fend for themselves. It was interesting enough that I read the whole book, but I found that I cared for none of the characters. And now, a few weeks later, I had to read a plot summary to do this review, because it wasn't terribly memorable.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dysfunctional family saga or everyone's storyBy JstafFamilies as tribes,

with a good example of how hard it is for ideologies to survive generations. A couple of the characters were interesting with an overload of stereotypes and not much of a story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked these characters. By ianfan I liked these characters, they seemed like many New Yorkers that I know. I found it believable the way each struggled with the unfolding facts of their fathers' other life after his death, in their own way. The Mother had some of the best zingers I've read in awhile.

“[Zoe Heller] is an extraordinarily entertaining writer, and this novel showcases her copious gifts, including a scathing, Waugh-like wit.”—New York Times Best-selling author Zoe Heller has followed up the critical and commercial success of *What Was She Thinking? Notes on a Scandal* with another tour-de-force on the meaning of faith, belief, and trust: *The Believers*. Tragic and comic, witty and intense, *The Believers* is the story of a dysfunctional family forced by tragedy to confront their own personal demons. In the vein of Claire Messud and Zadie Smith, Zoe Heller has written that rare novel that tackles the big ideas without sacrificing page-turning readability.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Heller (*What Was She Thinking?; Notes on a Scandal*) puts to pointed use her acute observations of human nature in her third novel, a satire of 1960s idealism soured in the early 21st century. Audrey and Joel Litvinoff have attempted to pass on to their children their lefty passions—despite Audrey's decidedly bourgeois attitude and attorney Joel's self-satisfied heroism, including the defense of a suspected terrorist in 2002 New York City. When Joel has a stroke and falls into a coma, Audrey grows increasingly nasty as his secrets surface. The children, meanwhile, wander off on their own adventures: Rosa's inherited principles are beleaguered by the unpleasant realities of her work with troubled adolescents; Karla, her self-image crushed by Audrey, has settled into an uncomfortable marriage and the accompanying pressure to have children; and adopted Lenny, the best metaphor for the family's troubles, dawdles along as a drug addict and master manipulator. Though some may be initially put off by the characters' coldness—the Litvinoffs are a severely screwed-up crew—readers with a certain mindset will have a blast watching things get worse. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *The New Yorker* Set in New York City in 2002, with the terror of September 11th still fresh and the confrontation with Iraq starting to take shape, this searing comic novel takes on hypocrisy of all kinds. Joel Litvinoff, a noted radical lawyer, suffers a stroke while in court defending a Muslim man accused of terrorist activity. His hospital room becomes the center of an orbit of women: his wife, Audrey, who clings to the diminishing hope that he will emerge from his coma; his daughters, Rosa and Karla; and Berenice, a photographer with whom he secretly had a child. As with Heller's previous novel, “*What Was She Thinking?*,” no one is entirely likable. Audrey is angry and cruel; Rosa priggish; Karla slovenly and timid; Berenice self-satisfied. Heller's talent lies in the way she illuminates her characters, often with dazzling insight, without making excuses or offering redemption. Copyright ©2008 Click here to subscribe to *The New Yorker* From *Bookmarks Magazine* Zoe Heller -- compared by some critics to Claire Messud, Jonathan Franzen, and Allegra Goodman in her use of social satire to explore dysfunctional families -- astutely delves into the deepest, most uncomfortable areas of human nature. Written with a journalistic flair and by turns humorous and depressing, *The Believers* casts a sharp eye on human foibles and the transformation of a radical family in the new century. Every critic praised Heller's ample skills, although a few found the characters, especially the nasty Audrey, difficult to relate to. Others, such as Lenny, came off as caricatures. Perhaps, as the *New York Times* suggested, Heller tried to do too much in the novel. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC