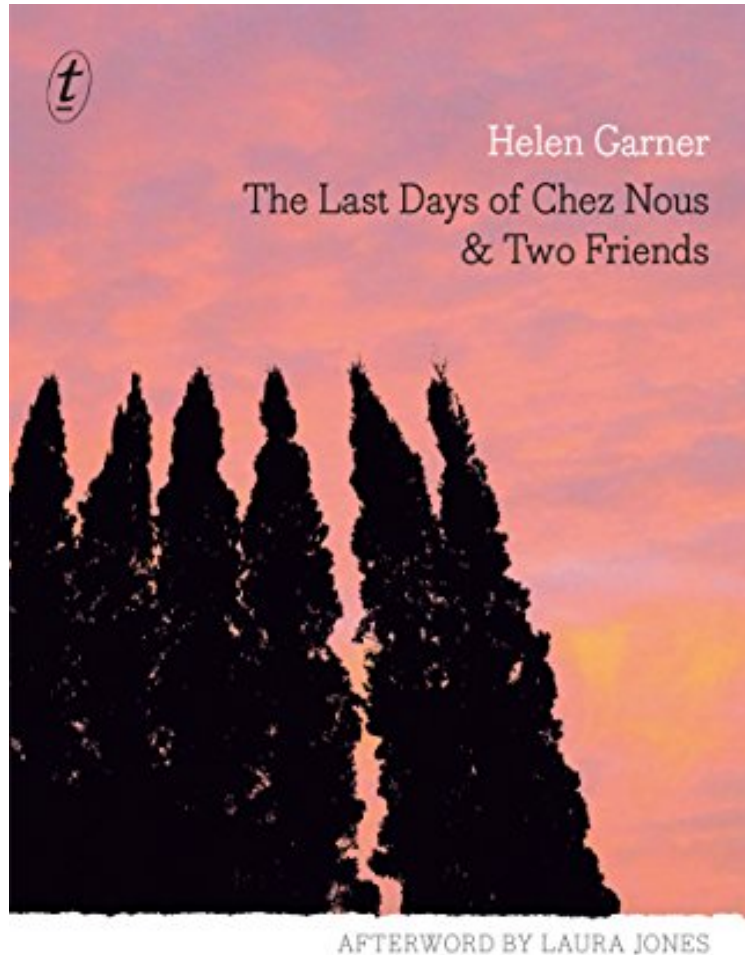


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The Last Days of Chez Nous Two Friends (Text Classics)

Helen Garner

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Helen Garner : The Last Days of Chez Nous Two Friends (Text Classics) 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 (Text Classics):

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 author's mind and the screen, a screenplay sits in a unique position. Descriptions are often quite sparse, and Garner explains how important the actor's interpretation is in bringing the author's message to the audience. As screenplays, the lack of Garner's usual rich prose means that these stories rely mainly on the dialogue. It is therefore a testament to Garner's 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!

The *Last Days of Chez Nous* and *Two Friends* showcases the range of one of Australia's greatest writers. These two scripts for films—*The Last Days of Chez Nous* was directed by Gillian Armstrong in 1991, and *Two Friends* by Jane Campion in 1986—are funny, sharp observations of relationships and friendships that are as intimate and engrossing as Helen Garner's acclaimed novels. This edition comes with a new introduction by the internationally renowned screenwriter Laura Jones, winner of the inaugural Australian Writers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. Helen Garner is an award-winning author of novels, stories, screenplays and works of non-fiction. In 2006 she received the inaugural Melbourne Prize for Literature and in 2016 a Windham-Campbell Prize for Non-Fiction. Her novel *The Spare Room*, published in 2008, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction and the Barbara Jefferis Award, and has been translated into many languages. Her non-fiction book *This House of Grief* won the Ned Kelly Award for Best True Crime of 2015. Helen Garner's most recent book is *Everywhere I Look*. (Garner's) humour and pathos shine. The stories are absorbing, the preface, quite fascinating. BookMooch

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.