



# A Month of Sundays: Searching for the Spirit and My Sister

*Julie Mars*

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## **A Month of Sundays: Searching for the Spirit and My Sister Julie Mars**

After witnessing her older sister's losing battle with pancreatic cancer, "her journey though the dark landscape of religious doubt toward her God," Mars was overtaken with a compulsion: she wanted to go to church. So, she dedicated herself to visiting 31 houses of worship over a period of as many weeks. *A Month of Sundays* is the story of her enlightening spiritual pilgrimage.

In each chapter, Mars takes readers to a different scene -- whether it's a synagogue, a Baptist church, or a mosque -- and with each visit readers are able to piece together a more complete, heartfelt picture of faith, God, and the search for meaning. Along the way, a poignant memoir of the relationship between two sisters unfolds.

Drifting in and out of her memories with her sister, a grief-stricken Mars weaves between past and present, moving readers along her narrative path. Her story spills out like that of an old friend sitting at the kitchen table, fanning out her photos, sharing her struggles. A generosity and lack of judgment season her tale, full of joy and loss. Early on in her memoir, Mars says of her dying sister, "I consider it an honor and a privilege to be with her, every day, as she reflects on the state of her soul." We could say the same of Julie Mars.

*(Summer 2005 Selection)*

## **A Month of Sundays: Searching for the Spirit and My Sister Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2005 by GreyCore Press (first published April 15th 2005)

ISBN : 9780974207452

Author : Julie Mars

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Nonfiction



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## **From Reader Review A Month of Sundays: Searching for the Spirit and My Sister for online ebook**

### **Denise says**

An interesting view of a search for oneself and coming to terms with loss but seeking out lessons from various churches. It's not about trying new religions but where the author is mentally at each church

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### **Debora Baird says**

This is one of those rare books that really makes me evaluate my beliefs and how I go about life. Very interesting to read about the different religions. I'm so glad I'm not as lost as the author is. We need to do this for book club, but it does use the F word once--just sayin'.

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### **Joanna says**

This book was fabulous! The author went to 31 different churches for 31 weeks (a month of Sundays) and she tells about them all. It's pretty facsinating.

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### **Mollie says**

I read this book as someone who enjoys church hopping... but that's not even nearly the meat of the book. It's a very personal memoir about processing grief and life's purpose and mysteries. The churches/places of worship are just an interesting backdrop.

Having suffered some large losses in the past few years of my life the first third of the book was a little bit gut-wrenching but then I got past it and it really was a nicely done memoir structured in an interesting and really very satisfying way.

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### **Leslie says**

The author, Julie Mars, loses her sister to cancer after caring for her in her dying months. She returns home to New Mexico and finds she wants two things. The second is this:

"My second serious desire is to go to church. I am surprised and a little afraid of this, so I set up some ground rules for myself. I will go to church every Sunday for thirty-one weeks: a month of Sundays. I will dress up and arrive a half hour early to take a picture with Shirley's simple camera, which I have taken from her farmhouse. I will enter the church five minutes early and sit somewhere in the middle. I will open my heart to the spirit."

Each chapter is one such visit. Fascinating, informative and enjoyable!

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### **Suzanne says**

This is a book about the spiritual journey of a woman who goes to a different church every week for 31 weeks. You don't get much real info about the churches. It is more her musings on trying to make sense of the death of her sister. It was a very powerful narrative on family relationships, illness, and death. I recommend it.

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### **Sean Hall says**

Very relatable, especially if you have had a sick family member and may have had to care for them - but also anyone who has searched for religious meaning in life, death, and God.

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### **Lindsey Gandhi says**

This is really in between a 3 and 4 rating. I lean towards the 4 on the aspect that Mars is really raw with sharing her grief over the loss of her sister and how she wanted to try and meet that grief head on. There were many times I was crying right along with her. I lean towards the 3 rating for the fact that I felt like she never really found what she was searching for. And that in itself is okay, I guess I had the expectation that by the end of the book she would have found some answer. It didn't appear (to me) she did. Also, there were some religious institutions that she didn't really talk much about her experience there, while others she wrote lots on. I wanted to know more..... I don't know if the author wrote it that way because those institutions didn't give their permission to be written about or she didn't see or get anything from those services worth writing about.

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### **Char says**

The timing of me reading this book was very fitting. When you are grieving for a lost loved one, even if it's 12 years later, it's comforting to read a book about the journey of someone else as they work through their own grieving process.

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### **Jenny (Reading Envy) says**

After her sister's death, Julie Mars visits a bunch of churches and other religious gatherings to try to find answers. This journey is braided with her own personal journey of grief and attempts to reconcile to her past.

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### **Brandy says**

A Month of Sundays is about one woman's spiritual quest after losing her sister to pancreatic cancer. This memoir is quite haunting and more than a bit sad, though Mars doesn't seem isolated in her grief. She takes the reader along for her ride to all 31 churches over the course of 31 weeks. Her emotions are stark and her story is as intriguing as it is heartbreaking.

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### **Andie says**

I would have liked to ride along with the author on her Sunday morning visits.

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### **Monica Tomasello says**

Ms. Mars spends a month of Sundays (31 weeks) visiting a different church each week looking for spiritual guidance and the spirit of her beloved sister. Each week she takes something different away from the service-some good, some not.

I appreciated and learned from her analysis, too, as well as her struggle to find solace.

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### **Catherine says**

Julie Mars spends the last seven months of her sister's life with her as she's dying from pancreatic cancer. After her sister's death, the author spends a month of Sundays going to 31 different churches seeking spiritualism during her grieving process. Mars writes of her feelings with frankness and honesty as she reflects on her feelings during her sister's illness and then onto her own grief. This book was not easy to read. It brought back a lot of my own personal memories of grieving.

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### **Rachelle says**

A very interesting book and it really made for some great discussion at our book club. My heart just aches this poor woman. She is so lost and I really hope that one day she is able to find real peace.

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