

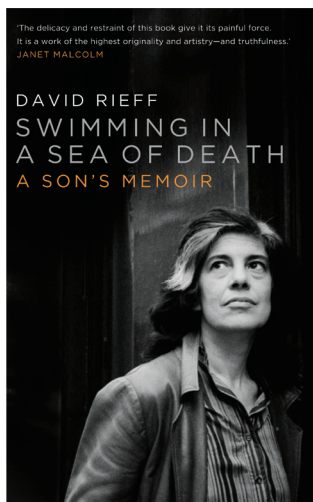
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'The delicacy and restraint of this book give it its painful force. It is a work of the highest originality and artistry - and truthfulness.' - Janet Malcolm



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David Rieff will be available for interview in May. He will be touring Australia as part of the Sydney Writers' Festival

For more information please contact Dina Kluska at MUP on 03 9342 0329 or 0406 998 030, or email dkluska@unimelb.edu.au

SWIMMING IN A SEA OF DEATH A SON'S MEMOIR

by David Rieff

'The news was so terrible. The news is still so terrible. As I would find out. As she would find out. The reality, for her, was that it was less a matter of having a sword of Damocles over her head as it was having it touching her throat. There is such a thing as too much reality.'

Swimming in a Sea of Death is David Rieff's loving tribute to his mother, the writer Susan Sontag, and her final battle with cancer.

Rieff's brave, passionate and unsparing witness of the last nine months of her life is both an intensely personal portrait of the relationship between a mother and a son, and a reflection on what it means to confront death in our culture.

David Rieff confronts his feelings in relation to his mother - the guilt, the self-questioning, the sense of not having done enough. And he tries to understand what it means to desire so desperately, as his mother did to the end of her life, and to try almost anything in order to go on living.

David Rieff is a contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine*. He is the author of seven previous books, including the acclaimed *At the Point of a Gun: Democratic Dreams and Armed Intervention*; *A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis*; and *Slaughterhouse: Bosnia and the Failure of the West*. He lives in New York City.