



Things Unsaid

A Novel

by Diana Y. Paul



Fiction - Womens

248 Pages

Reviewed on 03/12/2016

Book Review

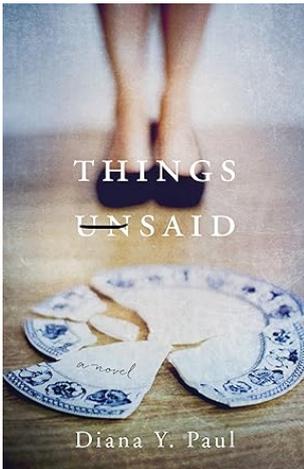


Reviewed by Ica Iova for Readers' Favorite

Diana Paul's novel, *Things Unsaid*, examines the dynamics of the family. It's tough getting old — for you and those around you. As an elderly parent, how much do you have the right to expect from your children? As a child of an elderly parent, how far would you go for your parent? Would you do everything humanly possible to maintain your parents' comfort and lifestyle, even if that comes at the expense of your own family? These are the questions Julia has after another argument with her husband about her parents.

Robert and Aida Whitman, Julia's parents, live in Safe Harbor, an assisted living community that costs five thousand dollars a month. Moreover, Julia's father has invested in penny stocks and lost almost everything he had. Julia and her two siblings, Joanne and Andrew, are now supposed to compensate and keep up the lifestyle to which their parents have become accustomed. Except that Andrew and Joanne have their own financial crisis. Julia is left to bail her parents out even as her own family's finances are at risk, including her daughter's college fund that is slowly draining away.

Things Unsaid by Diana Paul is a powerful, emotional tale that takes the reader deep into the complex dynamics of a dysfunctional family, alternating between love and obligation. Paul expertly entwines the past and present while exploring Julia's moral impasse between love and duty for her two families — the one she was born into and the one she has created as an adult.



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Author Biography



Diana Y. Paul, born in Akron, Ohio, is a graduate of Northwestern University, with a degree in both psychology and philosophy, and of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a PhD in Buddhist Studies. Her award-winning debut novel, *Things Unsaid* (She Writes Press, 2015), has been awarded Best New Adult Fiction 2016 from Beverly Hills Book Awards as well as the Silver Award for Best Fiction-Drama from Readers Favorite. *Things Unsaid* was ranked #2 in the "Top 14 Books about Families Crazy Than Yours" on Brit.co and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2016.

A former Stanford University professor, she is also the author of three books on Buddhism. Writing and art are forms of meditation for her. Diana is currently working on a second novel, *A Perfect Match*, a romantic comedy. She lives in Carmel, CA with her husband, Doug, and their white-and-grey calico, Mao. Diana and Doug enjoy visiting their two adult children, Maya Miller (San Francisco) and Keith Paul (Los Angeles), as often as they can.

To learn more about her and her work, visit her author website at <http://www.dianaypaul.com> and her blog on movies, art, and food at <http://www.unhealedwound.com> or follow her on Twitter: @DianaPaul10. Visit her author website, <http://www.dianaypaul.com> for more information