Sheldon Vanauken’s *A Severe Mercy* is the story he tells upon reflection of the love he had with Jean Davis, or Davy as she would come to be called, and the evolution they experienced both as a couple in love and as individuals. It is, as much as it is the story of their love, the story of their coming to know and love Christianity and its Jesus. *A Severe Mercy* is an autobiographical book by Sheldon Vanauken, relating the author's relationship with his wife, their friendship with C. S. Lewis, conversion to Christianity, and subsequent tragedy. It was first published in 1977. The book is strongly influenced, at least stylistically, by the Evelyn Waugh novel *Brideshead Revisited*. It was followed by a sequel, *Under the Mercy*, first published in 1985. *A Severe Mercy* (1977) is an autobiographical work by Sheldon Vanauken about love and the search for faith.