A wife who's too good to be true usually isn't, and the cliché holds true in Andrew Klavans engrossing little thriller. Psychiatrist Cal Bradley is married to Marie, a devout, adoring, sensuous helpmate, and he's happier than he ever thought he'd be. In fact, he's surprisingly content to ignore the signs that something in her past is still troubling her deeply, until he sees his wife in the arms of a stranger. Then young Peter Blue, accused of battering his girlfriend and setting a church on fire, comes under Cal's care. When Peter discloses his relationship with the stranger Cal saw in the woods with his wife, Marie's past suddenly explodes into the present, threatening to turn Cal's world upside down. There's not a lot of subtlety here. The conclusion is practically handed to the reader on the first page, with its heavy foreshadowing. But the novel works anyway because of Klavans deft characterization of Peter, a complex, spiritual adolescent who forces Cal to confront his own conscience and his conflict between love and duty. --Jane Adams

My Personal Review:
In truth, this book was recommended to me by famous Author/Television Writer Stephen J. Cannell. Now, while I have indeed met the man (he's a wonderful person), he didn't actually recommend this book in person just to me. He recommended it to all of us, in the forward to his new book 'At First Sight: A Novel Of Obsession'. He describes waiting on a movie set and reading this very book, and how it was part of what stimulated him to write his own "out of the normal" book. So I bought this book on Cannell's recommendation. You should too, and you should pick up 'At First Sight: A Novel Of Obsession' by Stephen J. Cannell also.

In 'Man And Wife', author Andrew Klavan takes us into the depths of a "perfect marriage". Fourteen years ago, Calvin Bradley married the wrong girl ... according to the "laws of nature". He'd been engaged to a girl who was his equal in every way until he met a waitress named Marie. She was everything "society" felt was wrong for an upcoming psychiatry star like Cal; uneducated, small-town, simple. But Cal marries Marie anyway, and
has had what he considers the perfect life ever since. He's never looked back. Until now.

Dr. Calvin Bradley, a psychiatrist, is the president of the Highbury Family Mental Health Clinic, otherwise known as "The Manor". Along comes the enigmatic nineteen-year-old Peter Blue, brought in by mountainous Police Chief Orrin Hunnicut. Peter has beat up his girlfriend, set a church on fire, and raised a weapon directly at Hunnicut. All but Father Fairfax from one of the town's many churches want to see Peter put away. Fairfax talks Cal into meeting with the boy to see if he belonged at The Manor rather than jail. Peter Blue is a mystifying young man, who has his very own, uniquely intimate connection to God. He emits a very real spiritual aura. Cal decides to help him, and against Hunnicut's wishes places Peter in The Manor rather than jail, which Peter threatened to commit suicide in.

Then Cal finds his perfect life shattered in the blink of an eye. Following a dream Peter described to him, Cal hikes up a wooded trail to a clearing with a flat rock that looks like an alter and an unusual tree formation that forms the shape of a cross. From his vantage point, he looks down by the river and sees his wife in an intimate conversation with a strange, dark man. When he later questions Marie about it, she laughs off his jealously and assures him it wasn't her. But things are never the same after that. Cal can't figure out if Marie is lying or not, and begins to question the fact that in fourteen years of marriage, Marie has never talked about her past or her sleeping difficulties. Just how well does Cal know his wife anyway?

Cal eventually discovers the man's name is Lester Marshall, an ex-con new to Highbury. Cal not only suspects ties between Lester and Marie, but also Lester and Peter Blue. As the story unfolds, told in first-person by Cal, the more anxious Cal becomes to unravel the truth about his own life for the past fourteen years. Andrew Klavan has written a wonderful novel here, definitely the "psychological suspense" promised on the front cover. The prose is flowing, smooth, and intense. The dialogue natural and the characters very well fleshed-out. I couldn't put the book down, reading long into the night to finish it. Thank you Mr. Cannell for recommending this book. I, also, highly recommend it. I'm looking forward to reading more of Klavan's work. Enjoy!

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Man and Wife by Andrew Klavan - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!