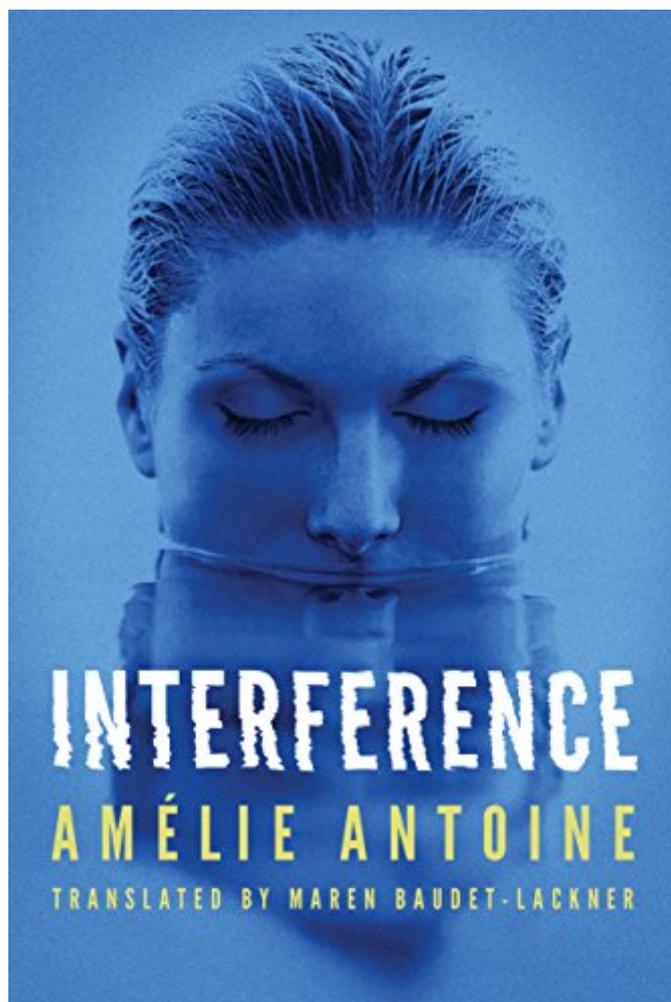


The book was found

Interference



Synopsis

They were the perfect coupleâ€”but not all is as it seems. Young married couple Gabriel and Chloé have a picture-perfect life. But when athletic Chloé suddenly drowns, Gabriel is left to grapple with the mysterious circumstances of her death. Brokenhearted, he pours out his grief in a bereavement group and is consoled by photographer Emma. While the two grow closer, Gabriel can't help but feel Chloé's presence everywhere he goes. And as revelations about Chloé slowly emerge, he begins to wonder, is Emma really that different? From prize-winning and bestselling author Amélie Antoine comes a dark and evocative novel that will keep readers guessing until the final momentsâ€”will Gabriel be able to move on with Emma, or will the mystery of Chloé's death consume him?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Warning: There are spoilers in the comments on this review. If you don't want spoilers, don't read the comments. This review itself has NO spoilers. You're safe until you hit the comments. This is a tender love story entwined around a man's loss of his wife. We are swept along by his grief, share in his life after her passing, and are seduced into opening our hearts to him by his attempts to heal.

There are little touches like a dog that comes into his life, a photographer who wanders into his path, etc. It's an entrancing novel that was really keeping me engaged. Through it all, I wondered if Chloe had been murdered, what hints was I missing, what was going to happen next. There was a feeling of impending revelation, where I thought for sure, we would find out who and why someone killed Chloe. I didn't care for Emma pushing herself on a man who was recently widowed, but I was leaving room for cluelessness. And then, in an awful moment of deus ex machina, we find out what happened. And it ruins the entire book. This bitter-sweet story of grief and recovery and possible mystery turns into a mess where almost every character you cared about is revealed as hateful. The plot itself is out of left field and so unbelievable it's ludicrous. The "twist" makes this whole book just a total waste. It doesn't feel ground-breaking, truth-revealing, or brilliant. It doesn't feel relevant to the human condition. It feels unbelievable and manipulative. I was left sitting there, feeling quite a bit of anger toward the author, saying to myself, "Really? Really?!!!! That's your big idea? That's your big reveal?" And then, to top it off, the story gets worse with how everyone acts after the twist.

When I make a decision to read a novel, obviously there are several factors involved. One that immediately draws my attention is the cover. A stunning cover with an equally interesting blurb normally seals the matter for me. And then there is the authorship matter. It is a bit natural to reread an author whose work I previously read. In this case, I decided to settle for *Interference* by Amélie Antoine on the basis of the book's stunning cover. I was amply rewarded as the novel has been translated from the original French language into flawless English by Maren Baudet-Lackner, and the struggle with the narrative normally associated with translated work was not there. The story follows two seemingly happy couple Gabriel and Chloé who are in the prime of their lives. Married for eight years now, they are living in Saint-Malo when one fine day Chloé is drowned in a small bay while taking her usual dip before work. A distraught Gabriel met Emma, a young photographer, when he joined a support group. Emma also proposes to make a scrapbook for each of the deceased. The two are drawn to each other but Chloé still seems very much alive and Gabriel cannot forget her and as a result is unable to rebuild his life. And it is on this premise that the author effortlessly pulls along the reader through to the end of the story with as much sense of trepidation and excitement. What was the young widower clinging to? What really happened to Chloé? And what part has Emma to play in the lives of the young couple, and later on in the life of Gabriel? Things are not what they seemed to be is a cliché normally used in describing such a situation. In *Interference* by Amélie Antoine, the cliché means much more than just that sense of platitude.

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