

Someone Else

Tonino Benacquista

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3548247 in Books Bitter Lemon Press 2005-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.70 x .90 x 5.101, .66
#File Name: 1904738125285 pages | File size: 36.Mb

Tonino Benacquista : Someone Else before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Someone Else:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy DonaldoTwo men meet in a Tennis club in Paris. After a game and a few drinks, they decide to challenge each other to 'change' who they are, and adopt a new identity. They will meet each other in three years time, with their new identity. As a concept, this is intriguing. I don't quite feel the blurb on the book explains it too well - one of the characters undergoes the complete identity change, the other just

seems to find his solution in alcohol changing his shy, anxious outlook on life. Of the one who undergoes the complete make-over as it were: he gives up his job as a framer to become a PI. He leaves his wife without warning, gets plastic surgery to change his appearance, and starts his new life. He even turns up at his own remembrance service two years after his disappearance, unnoticed. The alcoholic is previously tee-total and works in some soulless corporate job. When he starts drinking he meets and exciting beautiful woman and starts a relationship with him; he also find success in work as he just tells people what he thinks. He also invents a 'trickpack' which is a soft drinks can cut out to hide a can of alcohol - the patent to this makes him a millionaire. The first man changes himself physically, the second cerebrally. The book is interesting, but doesn't quite hang together. The alcoholic seemd magically transformed by the alcohol, but without suffering any side-effects such as vomiting, agonising hangovers, etc. He is sympathetic though, which is more than can be said for the other character, who you just can't warm to at all. By leaving his wife, job, friends, everything, he doesn't seem to gain anything in particular. Could he not have just changed job, had plastic surgery, but still stayed with his wife? The motivation just doesn't make sense, and feels like a whim. Such amoral, callous behaviour for no obvious gain seems pointless. If he got run down by a car on page 30, I would have thought he deserved it. It becomes interesting towards the end when he appears as a voyuer at his own remembrance party - speaking to the people he used to know without them knowing who he was. But this appears too late in the book really - until then you couldn't care less if he lived or died. But for something a bit different to read, worth a look in.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. terrific character study
By A Customer
The two men in their forties met when neither confident of their sport's ability played tennis against each other at Les Feuillants Tennis Club. Afterward Thierry Blin and Nicolas Gredzinski went to the bar. Over several drinks they both admit to one another they are unhappy with their present life and the apparent tedious future. Thierry is a successful picture framer who wants to become a private detective while Nicholas is an executive trying to hang onto the corporate ladder that he detests. Under the influence of imbibing too much alcohol they bet as to who could change his life the most. They agreed to meet in three years right here. Both are frightened to make the change, but Thierry tries dropping his loyal clientele to become a sleuth while legal circumstances forces Gred to let go of the ladder. As each leaves their safety net behind neither knows what to expect, but the time has come to find out what makes them tick as the capitalist world has sucked away their identity. However, neither is prepared for the danger that comes as each journey into the unknown fostered by the women in their lives. This is a terrific character study that looks deep into the onset of middle age with mortality around the corner and the need to believe that there is more to life than just making money in a safe environs. The story line rotates point of view between the two lead protagonists yet though clearly character driven has plenty of action. Fans of something different especially those who have become a bit cynical will appreciate this powerful glimpse at the risk of change to become SOMEONE ELSE.
Harriet Klausner

“Breathless pace. Touches effortlessly on identity, love, alcohol, and the cynicism of the business world.”—Les Echos
Who hasn't wanted to become “someone else”? Over a drink in Paris, two men give each other three years to see which one can more radically alter his life. Blin becomes a private detective. He takes on a new identity, even a surgically altered face. Gredzinski, a self-effacing corporate executive, discovers liquor that evening and rapidly yields to the sensuality and self-confidence induced by alcoholism. Things get complicated when Blin is hired by an ex-lover to find himself and when Gredzinski secretly follows his girlfriend to her home. A helter-skelter tale of humor and suspense.
Winner of the literary prize RTL-Lire.

From Publishers Weekly
Two strangers meet at a tennis club in Paris, launching this exploration into the nature of personal identity on its pleasantly erratic course. After a match, Thierry Blin, a picture framer, and Nicolas Gredzinski, a middle manager at a large corporation, hit the bar for a night of drinking, and make a bet that in three years' time they will have changed their unsatisfactory lives. That evening marks Gredzinski's first drinking binge ever and the start of his giddy spiral into alcoholism as he tries to quell the "monster of his ... anxiety" with booze. Blin switches careers-and identities-to live out his youthful fantasy, "hiding behind two words which had a magical and yet very real ring to them in his mind: private detective." With a surgically reconstructed face, Blin becomes P.I. Paul Vermeiren, and is hired to track down his now missing former self. More akin to Paul Auster's New York Trilogy than a standard crime novel, Benacquista's latest U.S. release (after Holy Smoke) offers a clever conceit.
Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Benacquista writes with humor and verve. Less a mystery than a deftly constructed diptych of existential escapism -- Rain Taxi, September 28, 2005
About the Author
Benacquista, born in France of Italian immigrants, dropped out of film studies to finance his writing career. After being a museum night watchman, a train guard and a parasite on the Paris gallery opening and cocktail circuit, he is now a successful author and screenwriter. Her work includes Catherine Millet's explicit autobiography, 'The sexual life of Catherine M' and Beigbeder's attack novel on advertising, '£9.99'. She also translated 'Death in the Dordogne' by Louis Sanders recently favourably reviewed by the NYT.