



End of the Affair

By Graham Greene

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This title is presented with an introduction by Monica Ali. The love affair between Maurice Bendix and Sarah, flourishing in the turbulent times of the London Blitz, ends when she suddenly and without explanation breaks it off. After a chance meeting rekindles his love and jealousy two years later, Bendix hires a private detective to follow Sarah, and slowly his love for her turns into an obsession.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Set in London during and just after World War II, Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair* is a pathos-laden examination of a three-way collision between love of self, love of another, and love of God. The affair in question involves Maurice Bendrix, a solipsistic novelist, and a dutifully married woman, Sarah Miles. The lovers meet at a party thrown by Sarah's dreary civil-servant husband, and proceed to liberate each other from boredom and routine unhappiness. Reflecting on the ebullient beginnings of their romance, Bendrix recalls: "There was never any question in those days of who wanted whom--we were together in desire." Indeed, the affair goes on unchecked for several years until, during an afternoon tryst, Bendrix goes downstairs to look for intruders in his basement and a bomb falls on the building. Sarah rushes down to find him lying under a fallen door, and immediately makes a deal with God, whom she has never particularly cared for. "I love him and I'll do anything if you'll make him alive.... I'll give him up forever, only let him be alive with a chance.... People can love each other without seeing each other, can't they, they love You all their lives without seeing You."

Bendrix, as evidenced by his ability to tell the story, is not dead, merely unconscious, and so Sarah must keep her promise. She breaks off the relationship without giving a reason, leaving Bendrix mystified and angry. The only explanation he can think of is that she's left him for another man. It isn't until years later, when he hires a private detective to ascertain the truth, that he learns of her impassioned vow. Sarah herself comes to understand her move through a strange rationalization. Writing to God in her journal, she says:

You willed our separation, but he [Bendrix] willed it too. He worked for it with his anger and his jealousy, and he worked for it with his love. For he gave me so much love, and I gave him so much love that soon there wasn't anything left, when we'd finished, but You.

It's as though the pull toward faith were inevitable, if incomprehensible--perhaps as punishment for her sin of adultery. In her final years, Sarah's faith only deepens, even as she remains haunted by the bombing and the power of her own attraction to God. Set against the backdrop of a war-ravaged city, *The End of the Affair* is equally haunting as it lays forth the question of what constitutes love in troubling, unequivocal terms. --
Melanie Rehak

Review

"Devastating study of the collision of different kinds of faith, betrayal and commitment" The Times "In a class by himself...the ultimate chronicler of twentieth-century man's consciousness and anxiety" -- William Golding "One of the most true and moving novels of my time, in anybody's language" -- William Faulkner "Greene's novel of illicit love captures perfectly the atmosphere of rainy wartime London - try to read this in one sitting if you can." Express "This novel had a great effect on my life...This is not a sentimental book, or one full of the kindness of God, in that both the man and the woman suffer the pain of loss and feel the heat of hell. This novel persuaded me to become a Catholic." Guardian

About the Author

Graham Greene was born in Hertfordshire in 1904. While at Balliol College, Oxford he published his first book of verse. He continued to write throughout his lifetime, and served with the Secret Intelligence Service during the Second World War. He was a member of the Order of Merit and a Companion of Honour. Among the many people who paid tribute to him on his death was Kingsley Amis: 'He will be missed all over the world. Until today, he was our greatest living novelist.' He died in 1991.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Colby McCray:

Does one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Try and pick one book that you find out the inside because don't judge book by its handle may doesn't work is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer might be End of the Affair why because the excellent cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content will be fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

Danny Exum:

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Ronald Johnson:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to your account is End of the Affair this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The words styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some research when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

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