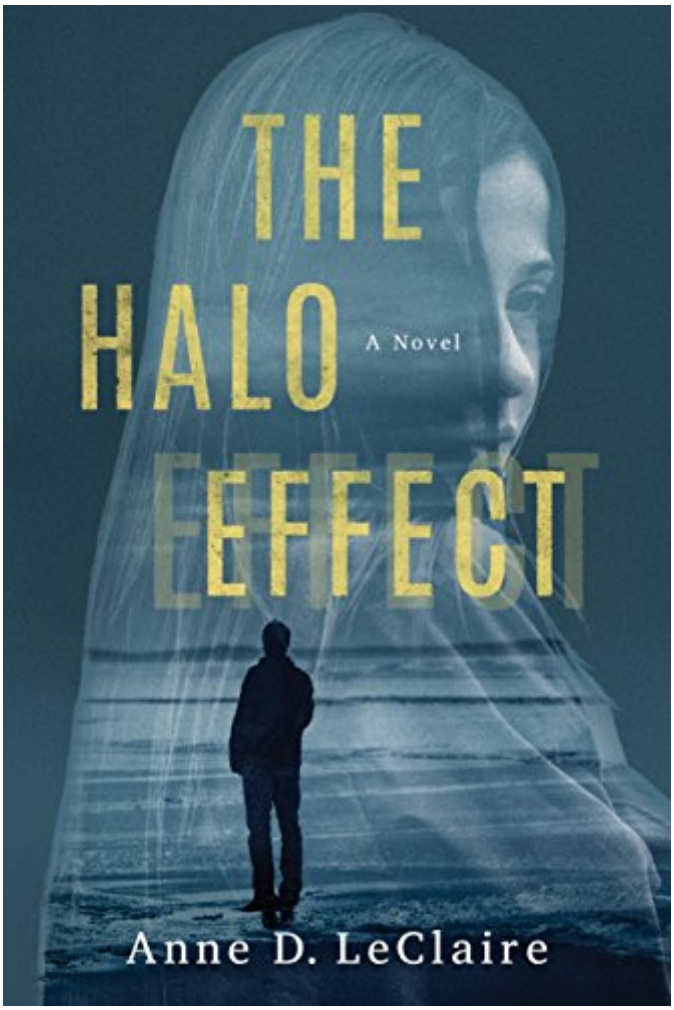
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The Halo Effect: A Novel



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Synopsis

In this tour de force, a father, shaken by tragedy, tries to avenge his daughterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s murderÃ¢â ¬â •and restore his familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s shattered life.It was supposed to be a typical October evening for renowned portrait artist Will Light. Over dinner of lamb tagine, his wife, Sophie, would share news about chorus rehearsals for the upcoming holiday concert, and their teenage daughter, Lucy, would chatter about French club and field hockey. Only Lucy never came home. Her body was found, days later, in the woods.The Eastern Seaboard town of Port Fortune used to be WillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s comfort. Now, thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no safe harbor for him. Not even when Father Gervase asks Will to paint portraits of saints for the new cathedral. Using the townspeople as models, Will sees in each face only a mask of the darkness of evil. And he just might be painting his daughterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s killer.As Will navigates his rage and heartbreak, Sophie tries to move on; Father Gervase becomes an unexpected ally; and Rain, LucyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best friend, shrouds herself in a near-silent fugue. Their paths collide in a series of inextricably linked, dark, dangerous moments that could lead to their undoingÃ¢â ¬Â|or to their redemption.

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Psychological

Customer Reviews

A total snooze fest. My goodness how it just dragged out, the end was so anticlimactic. Two stars is all this one can muster. My review is not a mini-synopsis, all I can offer is that it was a dud and feel that your time may be better spent elsewhere.The author does the internal dialogue of a teenage girl so badly I cringed.Entire chapters that added nothing of value to the story but were some attempt at building the non-suspense. I literally went back and read all the editorial reviews for this and laughed at how absolutely off mark they are. Page turner- yeah I started turning pages quickly when I realized that taking my time to absorb this was a serious waste of hours of my life.Intolerably suspensful ? No way, when I read the end I was just glad to have it over and done.The author decided to have the undercurrent of secrets and teenage angst play out through the act of self mutilation (cutting), but just botched it. She introduces this terrible pent up anxiety and then just plays it off as blah blah blah my parents are so lame, DE- NI- AL, they just don't "get me". Its bad.The main character mentions his RAGE that you never ever see. The books just goes on about rage and anger but it's not simmering or white hot, maybe lukewarm. And then randomly switches the point of storytelling to have the father question the reader (me/you) about how we would feel.Language: F-bombs, c*ck, b*tch. And not really for any good effect.The sex, while very abbreviated was so so not needed just because it was laughable. "We held each other like young lovers, but lovers whose bones held marrow-deep sorrow. We moved slowly as we explored, touched, tasted, as if not only our bodies but the air itself was fragile and a misstep would shatter all. I entered her, went deep, and knew that joy could be pain too".

This book was just awful. The premise is just creepy, using the local town folk faces as saints. Also, the descriptions of the torture and killings of the martyred saints was, for me, very distressing. There is little character development. Plot is cheesy and predictable despite a couple of red herrings thrown in. Dialogue is repetitious. This should have been classified as religious fiction instead of suspense.

I just read the last word and I sit hear with tears rolling down my cheeks...what an incredible way this author had of endearing these characters to me! I'm sad that the story is over and I have to say goodbye to these people I have grown very fond of. The story itself was wrapped up in the last few pages of the book, but just as they say about life itself, it was the journey, not the destination. I'm so

glad I took this journey and will look for other stories by this author. Enjoy...well worth your time

The beginning of this book was depressing, but effective in allowing the reader to understand the complete grief of Will, the father of Lucy, his only child who had gone missing and found murdered. I enjoyed getting to know the other characters, but the book was overly balanced toward Will. The saints portraits played a large role in helping Will to heal, but not how one would expect. Mainly through those that posed. I really got into the middle 2/3 of the book. The ending? I had guessed the murderer much earlier from one short mention. When the plot thickened and the murderer shows his true colors, the book was too rushed. And what happened in that room? It was vague. As a reader, I didn't want to go through a complete trial, but what did happen? Will shot a man, not something you get away with. Actually, I found myself asking whose trial it was. Epilogue was good.

I initially thought this book would be depressing, and I wasn't sure I would find it a good read. As I pressed on, I found the story to be a sad but interesting character study of a parent who lost a child by a violent act and almost destroyed his life as a result of his loss. Other characters who were brought into the story were also headed for disaster, but somehow with the help of others were able to overcome their insecurities and strange behavior patterns. This is the first story I have read by this author, but I plan to seek out other books that she has authored.

I am rarely moved to write a review but this book was such a great read that I want to recommend it. It tackles the subjects of faith, grief and surviving tragedy in a story with amazingly written characters. It starts off with a father's crushing grief but hang in there as the book is worth it.

I am not sure what I was expecting but this novel was much more. It delves into anger, loss, grief, religion, relationships and finding the good along your path. The depth of emotion and struggle Ms LeClaire so carefully crafts in her story telling is truly an art form. It is very easy to become involved with her characters and feel along with them as their story builds and sweeps you along with it. I highly recommend this book but *slight spoiler alert* not to someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

This novel was a monthly offering from and naturally there was question whether it would be a good read. It was. A young daughter murdered. The stories of the parents, friends, and acquaintances post death. The grief, secrets, faith and lack thereof along with and a few surprises. Not a suspense

novel, but a novel novel. Highly recommended.

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