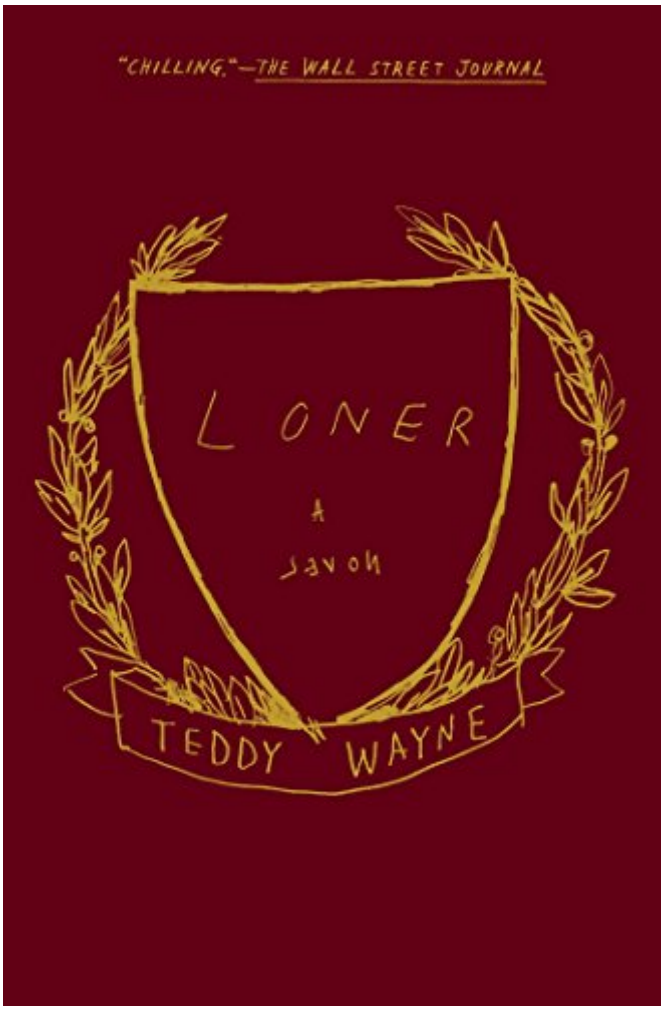
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Loner: A Novel



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Synopsis

The critically acclaimed and highly anticipated novel from award-winning writer Teddy Wayne, an unsettling and impossible-to-put-down work that is, Ã¢â ¬Å“powerfulÃ¢â ¬Â• (Fresh Air), Ã¢â ¬Å“engrossingÃ¢â ¬Â• (People), and Ã¢â ¬Å“complex and necessaryÃ¢â ¬Â• (Salon).David Federman has never felt appreciated. One of the most painfully forgettable members of his New Jersey high school classÃ¢â ¬â •despite his being the only senior accepted to HarvardÃ¢â ¬â •shy, witty David arrives in Cambridge fully expecting to embrace, and be embraced by, a new tribe of like-minded peers. But at first, beyond the friendly advances of a plain-looking girl named Sara, his social status seems devastatingly unlikely to change. Then Veronica Morgan Wells enters his life. Instantly infatuated, struck by both her beauty and her brains, David falls feverishly in love with the woman he sees as a charismatic Upper East Side goddess. Determined to stop at nothing to win her attention and an invite into her glamorous world, David begins compromising his own academic and moral standards, tossing everything aside for this one, great chance at happiness. But neither Veronica nor David, it turns out, are exactly as they seemÃ¢â ¬Â¦ In Loner, Teddy WayneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ã¢â ¬Å“writing is spiky and electricÃ¢â ¬Â¦[like] the early work of Jeffrey EugenidesÃ¢â ¬Â• (The New York Times Book Review), offering great Ã¢â ¬Å“evidence of a rising talentÃ¢â ¬Â• (The Wall Street Journal). This is a darkly comic, Ã¢â ¬Å“deft, involvingÃ¢â ¬Â• (Chicago Tribune) portrayal of psychosexual obsession that explores just what weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re capable of when our greatest enemies turn out to be ourselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don’t want to give too much away, but even knowing where it was heading, I was totally absorbed by the chilling portrait of David Federman-- till I reached the point where I realized I’d had not the slightest idea where it was heading! I was astonished and delighted, but there was more to the journey, and the chill returned with a vengeance. To put it simply, it’s the first novel I’ve read in decades without putting it down once I started. My back and neck are still sore, but small price to pay.

Loner: A Novel is a very well written and fascinating book. You get to see into the mind of a person who only thinks about their own wants, it is not even needs, it is simply wants. He will do anything to get what he wants, even if it is another person.I heard the reading recommendation on NPR for Loner: A Novel and they made it sound far more disturbing than it was, to me anyway, although it’s not by any means a book for children.I’m going to read the rest of Teddy Wayne’s books now, it has been a long time since I enjoyed reading so much.

David Federman (feder in German means feather) is no featherweight. He is bright and ambitious, and a loner. Not only a loner rather than a joiner, but a tightly coiled spring of disdain (nay, maybe even hatred) against the commonplace ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ parents, siblings, schoolmates, society, whatever. His being Jewish, from Jersey, and being reared by well-meaning yet distracted and clichÃƒÂ© mother contributes to his seething dislike of his life’s circumstances. He lives in a fantasy world where he is a soon to be recognized intellectual giant, in the meantime amusing himself with spelling words and sentences backward. As we are introduced to our hero, Divad Namredef is about to start his climb to fame at Harvard. Still finding the same disgusting commonplace people in his entourage, he fixates on a total stranger, Veronica, the Park Avenue-derived daughter of a financier and a socialite. Asinorev is way out of his class, but he decides to start a military-like campaign to conquer the young woman. Everything is fair in love and war (especially to one that equates the two), including starting a relationship with a flat-mate (primarily to gain better access to

Veronica, but also to gain some sorely needed sexual experience), lying, cheating, stealing, blackmail, etc. David is obsessed by Veronica and he alternately misreads her behavior as encouraging, indifferent, or haughty and disdainful. The plot thickens, but I am not going to spoil it for the reader. The book starts a bit like "Lucky Jim", but slowly metamorphoses to something like "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz", and then "The Collector". Mostly very well written, with quite a few sparkling descriptions and definitions, it reads very well. I have to admit that David's obsessions and his really disgusting character become a bit tedious, but the last third of the book offers a surprising twist. Other Jersey and Harvard denizens seem quite disgusting as well, at least as seen through David's periscope. Not an eternal masterpiece, but far above the run-of-the-mill pulp.

Teddy Wayne is an excellent writer. He has to be great, for me to like a book like this so much! ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s basically the story of a brilliant, but very lonely young man, turned stalker! But it is so well-written that I was somehow always rooting for him, although also rolling my eyes throughout. After getting into Harvard, he sees and fixates on a beautiful young woman who will barely give him the time of day, except to lure him in to write her papers for her. He thinks all along that sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s going to suddenly take him into her rarified world (sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not only beautiful, sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s rich), and readers are hoping all along that he will see the error of his ways, especially since there's another (very nice) young woman who likes him! There are a couple of dandy surprises at the end of the book, and not in a good way. One surprise is finding out who the beautiful girl really is, and the other is discovering what the young man is driven to do. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s kind of an ugly book, really, but immensely readable.

I don't understand why this book isn't on everyone's radar. It's so well written and presents a chilling vision of the inner workings of a psychopath. I couldn't put it down.

I am not sure if "like" it's the right word to use I'm how I feel about this book. It did give me a sense of how delusional stalkers can be. It is an uncomfortable read for sure. You mad to finish it though so that says something ...

This book will stay with you days after finishing it. A haunting portrait of a college student who wants to fit in, but who is undone by his own demons. Highly recommended.

Pluses: Very well written, occasionally very funny and has a great surprise at the end.Minuses: the protagonist is mostly very unsympathetic.

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