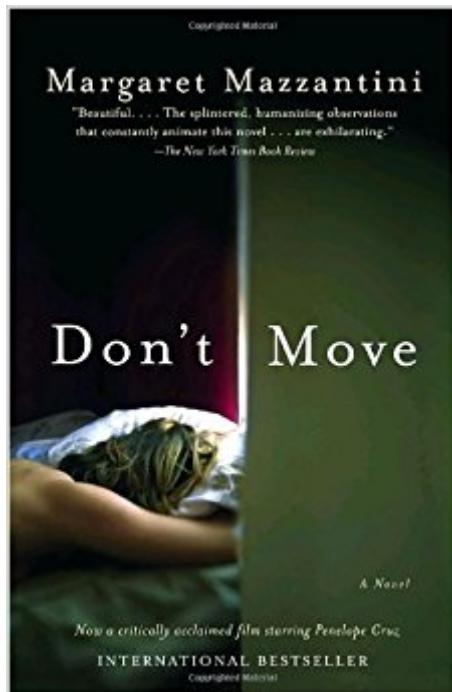


The book was found

Don't Move



Synopsis

Called to the hospital when his fifteen-year-old daughter, Angela, is injured in a potentially fatal accident, a prominent surgeon sits and waits, silently confessing the affair he had the year Angela was born. As Timoteo's tale begins, he's driving to the beach house where his beautiful, accomplished wife, Elsa, is waiting. Car trouble forces him to make a detour into a dingy suburb, where he meets Italia "unattractive, unpolished, working-class" "who awakens a part of him he scarcely recognizes. Disenchanted with his stable life, he seizes the chance to act without consequences, and their savage first encounter spirals into an inexplicable obsession. Returning again and again to Italia's dim hovel, he finds himself faced with a choice: a life of passion with Italia, or a life of comfort and predictability with Elsa. As Angela's life hangs in the balance, Timoteo's own life flashes before his eyes, this time seen through the lens of the one time he truly lived.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The movie mesmerized me; I won't have finished the book had I not seen the movie first. Several flaws mark this novel; I hesitate to harp about the writing, because the English version is in translation from the Italian. Suffice it to say that I found the writing at times lyrical, poetic, and at times too focused upon intimate details described with more vulgarity than necessary. I don't know whether the female author succeeded in writing from her male protagonist's point of view. I suspect she has tried too hard; he fits the stereotypical mold of an arrogant man who abuses women and sometimes pretends to feel remorse. Neither he nor any of the other characters are well developed;

they are portrayed and described, but not developed. They remain without dimension or depth. In addition to writing from a male point of view, Mazzantini has crafted a main character who deserves little sympathy, a character who-- in spite of his advanced intelligence and education-- shows no insight into his own behavior. Worse, he shows no tendency to examine his actions, to question himself with respect to the degradation he inflicts upon the two women with whom he is involved-- one of whom accepts it passively, maybe craves it, the other of whom knows nothing of it. We sense, perhaps subconsciously, that he is acting out a fantasy with Italia. He is claiming in her parts of himself that cannot be expressed or controlled. Our fascination with this story is about our vicarious desire to act out our own socially unacceptable fantasies. As a psychological drama, the book succeeds. The movie succeeds better, perhaps because Sergio Castellitto, one of Italy's most talented actors, is the husband of Margaret Mazzantini.

This was an interesting read. I found the story to be very detached from time in an odd way. I could not honestly tell you when the story took place because I think that the author was trying to illustrate the concept that it could take place at anytime and anywhere really. What I mean by this is the accidents in life, the affairs and indiscretions that people -regardless of class- all have. The narrator Timoteo begins the flashback tale by telling us of his daughter Angela's near fatal accident. She was riding a scooter that her parents had argued over even giving her (for fear of an accident) and she ends up in the hospital because she was hit by a car. Her father Timoteo is a brilliant surgeon and she is rushed, clinging to life, to his hospital. While she is being operated on Timoteo reflects on the year prior to her birth all the way up through present moment. He tells of his relationship with her mother Elsa -- an incredibly independent and well provided for woman. They have a beach house and lead what is most likely a very privileged life. One day on the way to the beach house Timoteo's car breaks down in what I could only gather was a shantytown. While waiting for the car to be repaired he meets a woman named Italia in a bar and ends up raping her. After raping what he describes as a poor and ugly woman, he proceeds to his beach house to meet up with his wife. All the while Timoteo cannot stop thinking of the power he felt by raping Italia and how he wanted it to happen again. Ultimately he goes back and bizarrely enough begins a relationship with her. He leads a double life until up to a few days after his daughter is born. And so goes the story...

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