

An English summer – Marc Desaubliaux



Résumé : In 2009, Fabrice was 56 years old and lived alone in his Parisian apartment. Followed by a psychiatrist, he reassures himself by creating habits because he does not support change. But, one day everything changes when he receives a letter from Margaret Crown who lives in England at Langley Manor. She asks him if he remembers the summer of 68 and asks him to come join her urgently.

Critique : Marc Desaubliaux takes us on board in July 1968, in a love story that transgresses prohibitions. It brings us to life the relationship and the first antics between Fabrice, a fifteen-year-old boy who is going on a language study trip to England, and his host, Margaret, then in his forties, married and mother of two children. The dangerous game is initiated by an attentive mother during the day, and a lover endowed with an insatiable desire, at night.

This novel questions the age difference in love but, above all, it addresses and points to the delicate question of the sexuality of an adult with a minor and the problem of incestuous behavior that accompanies it. The story is quite unsettling, because it places the reader in the role of voyeur, helpless spectator confronted with the sexual education of this adolescent. Is this woman a predator or has she just fallen in love with him, pushing the limits? Can

and should we accept everything when it comes to love? It is up to everyone to answer these difficult questions. The author is content to remain descriptive throughout the novel, thus avoiding positioning himself in the judgment. Marc Desaubliaux maintains this diffuse malaise until the end of the book, where we will finally learn the secret that Margaret wanted to reveal to Fabrice.

Despite these prohibitions, this work is particularly touching. His story is told from the point of view of this child victim, torn between his impulses and doing wrong. We see him struggling with aggression against his demons and facing his loneliness which prevents him from confiding and taking advice from his parents.

We feel a lot of compassion for this teenager with a very great sensitivity, whose summer 68 will change his life forever.

An English summer is an incredible and perfectly successful novel. The catchy writing transports us both in the meanders of the bourgeoisie and the English countryside. From this story, the reader does not come out entirely unscathed.

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