



Loud Awake and Lost

Adele Griffin

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There was an accident. Ember knows at least that much. She was driving. The car was totaled. Eight months later, Ember feels broken. She can't even remember the six weeks of her life leading up to the accident. Where was she going? Who was she with? And what happened during those six weeks that her friends and family won't talk about?

In the wake of her critically praised young adult psychological thrillers, *Tighter* and *All You Never Wanted*, National Book Award finalist Adele Griffin has created another triumph in this unflinching story of loss and recovery that *Booklist* called "exquisite" in a starred review.

Loud Awake and Lost Details

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Author : Adele Griffin

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From Reader Review Loud Awake and Lost for online ebook

Debbie says

Thank you Autumn, you tried to save me.

I heard there was an obvious twist and I had to go back and find out for myself. It was a boring twist . And the build up didn't even make sense enough to call it obvious. Just wanted it to better because I like amnesia books but this wasn't worth finishing.

Anna Bubolz says

Review

In the beginning I liked this book a lot. It could have been a way better book, but the fact that the ending was terrible made me mad. The book would be a little confusing if you didn't know a little bit of some medical terminology and disorders because she had severe psychosis. In the beginning of the book you wouldn't know that until the plot twist.

Plot

The book is about a girl named Ember who got into a terrible car accident. She spent about six months recovering in the hospital. When she gets out of the hospital she forgot everything from the past two months, including who the boy she killed was. One day, when she was taking the subway to physical therapy, she falls asleep and wakes up far away from town but she wasn't lost. The place she was felt familiar but she forgot why. When she was looking around she met this boy Kai and they start dating. The only problem is the boy she has been going on dates with isn't alive. In the end of the book she finally revealed it was all a memory of the boy she killed.

Recommendations

I would recommend this book to people in highschool because of the medical terms in it. The book "dumbs" it down for the average person so it isn't that hard to grasp at all. I also would say this book is geared towards female readers because it's more girly.

Rylie Clark says

Plot summary

Ember Leferrier is a 17 year old who got in a car accident, killing her boyfriend. Ember loses her memory of the past 2 months. While sitting on a rooftop, she meets a boy named Kai, a artist who seems familiar to Ember, but she can't figure out why. She wants to know more about him, but she struggles to get back in touch with him.

Personal Response

I like the general idea of the story. The book dragged on longer than it needed, which made it hard to read. I don't like how the book ended, because it ended right after a plot twist, and you didn't really see what happened to the characters after.

Characterization

The book started 8 months after the accident. Ember remembered little to nothing about the previous 2

months. At the end of the book, most of her memory was back. Her personality changes throughout the book as she learns new things about herself and her past.

Recommendations

I recommend this book to anyone who likes longer, detailed books. I think the book was more specifically written for girls, because it involves ballet, romance, and cooking. However, I think guys could enjoy this book as well.

Lori Clark says

Another winning, 5-Heart read! I've been very fortunate as of late to have been able to read so many great books. I had been in a bit of a reading slump, but managed to pull out of it. I read the reviews on this book and so many people thought it read slow. I didn't see that at all. I loved the pacing. I adored the characters. It kept me turning the pages to see what really happened to Ember. One by one, piece by piece, we begin to uncover the clues. Some people didn't like Ember. I did. I thought she was surprisingly strong. Her parents worried about her, understandably. The only thing I didn't like was: I would have liked for her to have ended up getting back together with Holden. I liked that boy. What a sweetheart! But, I also understand the reasons why it didn't happen. This is my first read by Adele Griffin, but it won't be my last. I wouldn't exactly call this a psychological thriller. But it was a mystery and it was good.

Linda Lipko says

This is a YA book that really did not hold my interest. Recovering from a car accident wherein her car went over a bridge, killing her traveling companion, and seriously hurting her. While her body recovers, there are still pieces of memory that cannot be remembered.

I thought the book repetitive and boring. I finished it, but cannot recommend it.

Kati Kettleison says

I'd give this book 3 out of 5 stars. I say that because it was a good book, but it didn't really draw my attention the whole time. I liked it when there was drama, but most of the time it was just informing you about what led to that scene.

I'd recommend this book to females in their tween and teen years. I say that because anyone could end up in Ember's situation. This book also shows how you get through things with the help of family and friends.

In the beginning of this book Ember just got out of a hospital called Addington. She was in the hospital because she was in a very bad car accident. She had about two months lost in her memory from the accident. She lost everything from the end of December to the end of February. The accident happened in the middle of February. While she was in Addington she had to relearn pretty much everything. She learned that in the accident a boy, Anthony Travola, died. He was passenger while Ember was driving, but Ember had no idea who he was. When she got home, everyone at school treated her like she was still injured. The only person that she felt like she could talk to was her ex-boyfriend, Holden. Her and Holden always had a thing

throughout the book, but they never actually got back together. One day when Ember was supposed to go to physical therapy, she went to a club called Areacode instead. At the club she met a guy named Kai. They had an intimate connection right away. After that night Ember couldn't stop thinking about him. After a week without seeing Kai, Ember called him. They made plans to go out on a date. Then after the date, Ember went to the place where the accident happened. She was devastated and then her memory came back. At the end of the book, Ember gets full recollection of everything she had forgotten.

Kira says

I thought, after having read "Gone Girl" (GREAT psych. thriller. DEF. read) that, despite this technically being a "young adult" novel, I would enjoy the plot. Easier, enjoyable read, I thought.

Truth is, looking back at it in an overall sense, aside from the occasional chapter(s) that came across more appealingly descriptive and subsequently gripping/interesting, as a collective work, This just falls short of the "stories worth remembering" pile. It might be because I'm outside of the demographic (read: no longer a teenager,) but more likely than not, I'm feeling it's just that Ember, despite having gone through a horrible accident and being left with some mental intrigue, is written as too piney and whiney a character; with not enough external forward plot development to balance her out.

The general question of, "Is Ember the "same person" now that she's recovered from her accident, as she was before her accident?" Is answered in such a scattered way, that I feel more like Ember's slighted BFF and or her parents that are always voicing their frustrated/uninformed/confused irritation at Ember's ping pong behavior –both visible and unknown to them all.

You would think as a reader, I might care more about the external circumstances that caused Ember to get to the situation and be more patient with the story's pacing but, I think that goes back to the stale writing of her character... It just leaves me not feeling genuinely concerned or empathetic, and thusly not enjoying the book.

Stinks, because I really wanted to like it.

Ending on a positive note though, the voice actor that read the audiobook version was quite good and likable. She might have even been part of the reason I enjoyed some of the of chapters.

Mark Flowers says

Very disappointing. An extremely obvious and overused twist, preceeded by 200 pages of characters not asking or answering obvious questions that would have exploded the twist.

Brittany (The Book Addict's Guide/Novelly Yours) says

3.5 stars

ARC provided by Random House

Loud Awake and Lost was good but just not as gripping and enthralling as I hoped it would be

For one, I wasn't a huge fan of Ember. I understood where her character was headed but eh. We just weren't

connecting.

I also didn't really understand Kai. Their meeting and the continuing relationship didn't click for me and it really affected my feelings towards the book. It was negative but... Just very in the middle.

The more I think about it, the more I feel like my connection to the characters just held me back a bit. I actually had figured out the ending (well, suspected) about halfway through the book so the resolution to the mystery wasn't as surprising for me. It really does help everything come together and all makes sense but I felt like I didn't get enough hints or answers fast enough. I wanted some clues and some insights a bit quicker to help push the story along.

I enjoyed the book but it just wasn't a favorite.

Full review originally posted [HERE](#) on [The Book Addict's Guide 12/16/13](#): There don't seem to be a lot of mystery-type YA novels (or weren't... I think they're starting appear more often now! Or maybe I'm noticing them more...) so I was really hoping *LOUD AWAKE AND LOST* would be a really good mystery and, well. It just wasn't as thrilling as I had hoped!

I actually have a lot of respect for the book, especially after finding out that Adele Griffin was inspired to write this book based on a situation that happened to her brother. (You can find out more info about that on the author profile over at [Teen Lit Rocks!](#)) I really enjoyed the psychological factor involved in *LOUD AWAKE AND LOST*. I really enjoy a good psychological twist and this book definitely had them! Ember wakes up after her accident and is missing a few very, very key details all from the last six weeks of her life before the accident. It was incredibly interesting to see how Ember had to figure out exactly what happened during those few weeks -- especially involving a very important piece she can't remember, a fight she barely believes happened, and memories of the accident that she really needs to recover before she can move on with her life.

I really enjoyed the concept and the process of the story and overall, it was exactly what I was looking for but somehow it just didn't come together as the story was progressing. I felt like that was kind of weird for me, but the resolution of the story sort of confirmed suspicions for me and brought everything together. I feel like a lot of times if I'm struggling a bit during the story, the ending usually ends up disappointing me as well, but I was invested in what I was hoping the ending would be so really the big picture was a big deal! There were a couple interesting twists in the book but I do have to say that I kind of guessed the "big deal" in there. It actually made the book better for me that was able to suspect that because otherwise it would have been a bit too confusing for me along the way.

There were actually a few times that I felt like the mystery was dragging. I wanted a few more clues to push the plot forward and keep my interesting piqued but there were times it was just a bit too slow. I think the fact that I do love a good mystery actually took away from it for me because I love the build-up of suspense and it did build up but then there were points where it would build up and then not move forward. I needed a bit more of a reveal than I was given at times!

I also had a bit of trouble connecting with the characters. I liked Ember but I didn't feel that emotional connection with her. I was also really confused with her relationship with Kai at first until things started to really unfold. Everything of course made sense towards the end, but it was another situation where it just didn't quite all fit together for me.

So I guess the review really sounds like I didn't enjoy the book but I did. Just really not as much as I had hoped. I think my big issue was that things really just didn't mesh for me while I was reading it. I had suspicions about what Ember was missing and I used those suspicions as fact (which did end up being true) so things made sense for me. Without those, I would have been a little too confused and I didn't like being so dependent on a hunch!

Mia says

If I was grading/reviewing these books in a curve, all of those other books would have failed. Okay, not all of them, but the best any of the others would get is a B or B-. *Loud Awake and Lost* blew me away. I sat down to read a few chapters, and came back to the real world a couple hours later with only a few chapters left. To any aspiring writers out there, read this book if you want to learn how to master the plot twist. The thing I loved the most about the book was that it's a mystery, but it's not like Nancy Drew. Eden already knows she was the culprit (and the victim, in a way), she knows the gist of what happened, but she's trying to uncover the events that led to the accident. I wondered if it was just a coincidence that she didn't remember any part of the time in her life when she grew distant from her crew, but then I realized that there are no coincidences. If you're reading this, that means you probably haven't read the book, in which case I'm only humoring myself by adding that reference. Everything about *Loud Awake and Lost* is absolutely amazing, and I will definitely read it again.

Kathleen (QueenKatieMae) says

When we first meet 17 year-old Ember, she is cleaning out her room at a long-term rehab facility. The reader is given little bits and clues: she's been there 8 months and she's extremely anxious that she has to leave. When she gets home, her room is foreign, there is a poster for a band she doesn't recognize or remember. It's not until her best friend since kindergarten, Rachel, arrives that we learn Ember was not in a psych or drug rehab like we are led to believe. She was in a devastating near-fatal car accident that left her with physical and mental scars, ruined her dance career, her spine is now held together with a bolt, and she has survivor's guilt.

But, she remembers nothing; not the events, or even the weeks, leading up to the accident, and she does not remember the boy who died in her car.

The author, Adele Griffin, takes Ember, and the reader, down the long, circuitous path to regaining her memory. Many patients with Traumatic Brain Injuries find themselves grasping, sometimes desperately, trying to remember faces, names, events, places, and the author has done the same with Ember. People she doesn't recognize talk to her as if they are best friends and they talk about going out and clubbing together. But Ember was never into the club scene. Rachel is her best friend, not these other girls. And who was the boy in her car? Rachel doesn't know, but neither does anyone else.

Extracting the bits and pieces of lost memory as they come to her, Ember visits the club she supposedly frequented and meets Kai. They instantly connect. He is artistic and beautiful and mysterious and he understands Ember, unlike her family and friends. As obsessed as she is with regaining her memory, she is now equally obsessed with Kai.

What I liked about the book is the same reason I did not love the book: the process Ember endures to regain her memory, especially about the night of the accident, is frustratingly slow. It is a painful journey for Ember, but for the reader it can be exasperating. And Ember's teenage preoccupation with the new boy, Kai, is understandable, but it is pure angst.

Sitting in the back seat, the reader can easily recognize all the things Ember should do to hasten her recovery and all the mistakes she makes that prolong it. Teenage girls talk. A lot. Why doesn't Ember just confide in Rachel? What is she hiding? Why does she avoid her former dance instructor? By the end of the book, these questions are answered and her behavior makes sense. But, as I said before, it is a long and circuitous path.

Tanja Voosen says

Mein Eindruck in 5 Sätzen:

- 1) Der Anfang war sehr interessant.
- 2) Die Protagonistin ist wahnsinnig egoistisch.
- 3) Die Handlung ist sehr vorhersehbar.
- 4) Die Liebesgeschichte war seltsam.
- 5) Das Ende war nicht zufriedenstellend.

Etwas ausführlicher:

Alles, was ich von mir weiß war für mich leider ein Reinfluss. Der Beginn des Buch war sehr interessant gestaltet und ich habe ein wenig herumgerätselt, was nun passieren würde (auch, wenn man es eigentlich durch den Klappentext schon weiß) und daher gefiel mir der Einstieg echt gut. Die Autorin hat auch eine sehr lockere, schnörkellose Art zu schreiben, weshalb man schnell durchkommt beim Lesen. nach wenigen Kapitel wird klar, dass die Themen hier nicht so leicht ist: Gedächtnisverlust, Schuldgefühle usw. Das hat das Buch schon recht speziell gemacht und ich war bereit mich darauf einzulassen, aber - speziell - das trifft auch auf Ember zu. Unsere Protagonistin war einfach merkwürdig. Angefangen von egoistischen Anwandlungen, bis hin zu nicht nachvollziehbaren Gedankengängen, wurde sie mir ganz schnell richtig unsympathisch. Sie spielt mit den Gefühlen anderer, weiß nichts wertzuschätzen und schiebt ihr schreckliches Verhalten immer auf den Unfall.

Das Buch ist so aufgebaut, dass Ember versucht herauszufinden, was damals passiert ist und wie es zu dem Unfall kam...und ich muss echt sagen, dass die Autorin keine guten Job geleistet hat. Es war ja echt so, als habe Adele Griffin sich einen fetten Zaunpfahl genommen und gedacht BAM schlag ich dem Leser mal ins Gesicht. Man wusste relativ schnell so ziemlich ALLES und das hat dem Buch enorm den Wind aus den Segeln genommen. Mal abgesehen davon war die Handlung aber auch sehr langweilig und mit so einer unsympathischen Protagonistin wie Ember auch nicht sonderlich unterhaltsam.

Ich mochte die Nebenfiguren, wegen denen es auch 2-3 tolle Szenen/Dialoge gab und das ist dann auch der einzige Grund, wieso ich dem Buch großzügiger Weise noch 2 Sterne gebe. Entweder hab ich hier irgendwas nicht verstanden und es war einfach so mies, wie es sich beim Lesen angefühlt hat. Deshalb keine Leseempfehlung von mir.

Emily says

Amnesic characters abound in young adult fiction, clustering in a mass almost large enough to create an entire sub-genre: memory loss books. As much as this ploy captivates me, it is no secret that scattered

memories are growing more and more common, and therefore authors must work harder and harder to make their tales unique. Some do not succeed in separating their stories from others, but with her newest novel, *Adele Griffin* excels in the art of individuality. *Loud Awake and Lost* is a precisely worded equation, developed to transform small doses of memory loss into an effective plot.

Griffin first minimizes her amnesia input by only stealing six weeks from her protagonist. This block of time initially seems small enough that Ember can slide back into her old life, but these six weeks were heavy with life-changing events. Ember quickly discovers that she changed as a person in the last days before her accident and spends the rest of the book uncovering who and what brought about the lost side of her personality, dividing her characterization into three contrasting sections. Readers see who the main character is now and hear hints about the two earlier versions of herself, which creates a split personality that gives Ember's voice an unreliable tone. Griffin could not have created this contradictory character development without such a short block of blank time.

The author also cuts back on the memory loss ploy by shaving away excess flashbacks. Stingy with details, she shares bits of Ember's past in sentence-long snippets rather than page-long breaks into the character's history, keeping readers waiting on their toes for the next reveal. Griffin only unveils information when the protagonist earns it, either by outright asking or engaging in a memory-triggering experience, which forces readers to cheer for Ember as she pieces together and accepts her past. *Loud Awake and Lost* does not take the easy way out when it comes to disclosing its protagonist's history, and as a result, the story flourishes with suspense and character development.

Each of these elements travels on its own through the literary function Griffin writes, but they combine to form the greatest output of all. When Ember's uncertainty about who she is blends with her struggle to find out, there is plenty left to the unknown and an equal number of opportunities for plot twists. *Loud Awake and Lost* pops with little surprises until the end, when one final discovery blows the rest of the story to bits. I somehow did not predict the conclusion, but after reading the book's final page, I felt compelled to reread each moment that I retrospectively recognized as a subtle clue, just to appreciate Griffin's smooth foreshadowing.

Loud Awake and Lost further proves a point that the author's previous books already made: Adele Griffin has mastered her grip on the mind and can manipulate a character's consciousness into an addictive psychological thriller. Her style is unlike any other mystery author's, and I am now a devoted fan of her rich, electrifying writing.

This review originally appeared at www.foreverliterary.blogspot.com.

Tiffa (The Readers Lair) says

3.5/5 stars!

Juhina says

Loud Awake and Lost delivers what it promises.. a spooky thrilling contemporary read that has you questioning everything. Ember, the main protagonist has just been released from a rehabilitation center, 8

months after a car accident that led to multiple breaks, fractures, and near death surgeries, as well as a black hole in the six weeks prior to her accident. When Ember gets back home and back to school, what people are saying as well as what her room looks like don't add up. She seems to be into new music, hanging out with a different crowd her school friends don't know about, as well as a mysterious guy that she can't even remember. This book follows Ember dealing with her PTSD, her memory loss, and everyone's expectation of her going back to the Ember before her change.

I personally loved this book. There is a big twist in the end that I sort of knew was coming (when I had a hunch I stupidly checked the last couple of pages and confirmed my theory) however that didn't deter me from reading and enjoying *Loud Awake and Lost*. I really sympathized with Ember and what she was going through, especially after finding out more forgotten memories that caused her even more pain. I loved how Griffin so easily made me connect with Ember. I love characters that I could share their pain and hurt, their happiness and hopes; that was Ember for me.

If you are expecting a murder mystery or a villain, then I suggest you rearrange your expectations because this one is free of that. I couldn't put the book down and wanted to read more, not just more of Ember but also of her best friend's life, her ex-boyfriend who just came back into her life, as well as her parents. At only 300 pages, this one was a quick read with a thrilling plot line, likable main protagonist, and great secondary characters. I recommend it to any YA contemporary readers, especially ones that love a little mystery in their stories.
