



2018

The Love Interest

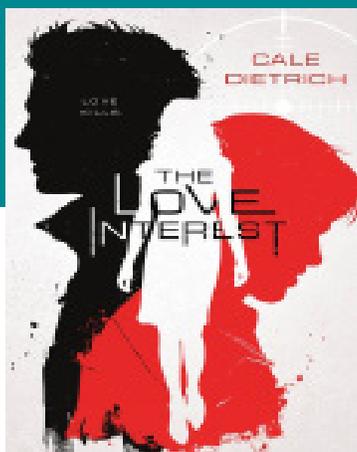
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Book Review

The Love Interest

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Illustrator

Reviewer

Rachel Aedo

Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

384

Year

2018

Publisher

Square Fish

ISBN

9781250158642

Caden has a new name, a new face, and a perfect body, all specifically constructed to woo one special girl, Juliet. The only problem is Dyl, who has also been created especially to win the love of Juliet. Dyl and Caden are Love Interests, special spies trained and selected to oppose one another in the hopes that Juliet will fall in love with one of them. The catch is, whoever isn't chosen by Juliet will die. However, the plans of the Love Interest Corporation go awry when Caden realizes he would rather date Dyl than Juliet, and Juliet decides she would rather destroy the Love Interest Corporation than choose between Caden and Dyl.

Caden's sexuality is the biggest plot in this story, foiled by the rivalry between Caden and Dyl as they both pursue a girl that neither of them are interested in. The stakes are expertly raised time and again as Caden considers his feelings for Juliet and Dyl. Same-gender attraction is normalized in this book by each character, and though it feels mildly forced in the beginning, the support this book offers for Caden's feelings and character development is delightfully positive. This book is very plot-driven, and perhaps some character development is lost there, but Dyl and Juliet specifically are wonderfully surprising characters, and the friendships exhibited by each individual character creates a world where people are supportive and caring, no matter the circumstances. Additionally, the action is paced well and the story leaves the reader wanting more, as the concept of the Love Interest Corporation is explained further.

*Contains moderate language, moderate sexual content, and mild violence.