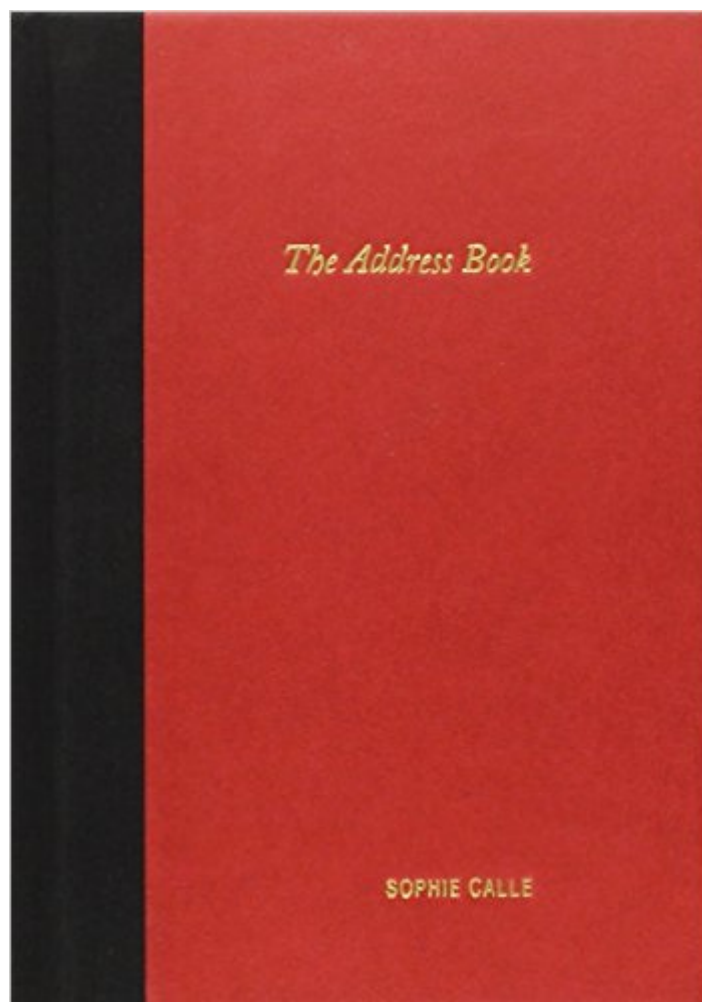


The book was found

Sophie Calle: The Address Book



Synopsis

The Address Book, a key and controversial work in Sophie Calle's oeuvre, lies at the epicenter of many layers of reality and fiction. Having found a lost address book on the street in Paris, Calle copied the pages before returning it anonymously to its owner. She then embarked on a search to come to know this stranger by contacting listed individuals--in essence, following him through the map of his acquaintances. Originally published as a serial in the newspaper Libération over the course of one month, her incisive written accounts with friends, family and colleagues, juxtaposed with photographs, yield vivid subjective impressions of the address book's owner, Pierre D., while also suggesting ever more complicated stories as information is parsed and withheld by the people she encounters. Collaged through a multitude of details--from the banal to the luminous, this fragile and strangely intimate portrait of Pierre D. is a prism through which to see the desire for, and the elusivity of, knowledge. Upon learning of this work and its publication in the newspaper, Pierre D. expressed his anger, and Calle agreed not to republish the work until after his death. Until then, The Address Book had only been described in English--as the work of the character Maria Turner, whom Paul Auster based on Calle in his novel Leviathan; and in Double Game, Calle's monograph which converses with Auster's novel. This is the first trade publication in English of The Address Book (Gemini G.E.L. in Los Angeles released a suite of lithographs modeled on the original tabloid pages from Libération in an edition of 24). The book has the physical weight and feel of an actual address book with a new design of text and images which allow the story to unfold and be savored by the reader.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

in 1983 in Paris, the author finds an address book and copies the contents before anonymously returning it. She then seeks out the people in the book and asks them about the man Pierre D, who's address book it is. She then publishes this interview in Libération, a newspaper. Those interviews, along with some photographs, are compiled in this book. When I first heard about this it sounded like a fun read. Maybe this would be a unique way of learning about someone. I had high hopes. After reading it though I wasn't impressed. Here's what I came away with about Pierre D - he's kind of aloof but friendly enough; he's a film scholar; one person said he always finishes what's on his plate; one person says he was a well liked teacher, etc. For me it didn't add up to much, though it was readable enough. It was sort of like something you see in a museum and say, 'That's clever' but you aren't really engaged by it. I think it might have been more fun to read as a series in the newspaper. Maybe if I had been there it all would have resonated more. I'm pretty sure it would have. I'd be interested to read about how the series was received by the public.

This is the book one wishes one had written oneself. Sophie Calle thought of it first; the mark of a true Artist! In the format of an actual address book, with black and white photographs. A gem.

An iconic book about the communication before www. A french great artist in a emblematic edition (small and beautiful) remind us with a poetic way, first, how the communication between people became more difficult and, second, how easy is to "touch" unknown people if you just love them as a human.

This was a lovely-looking book with an intriguing concept, but it left me wanting. I didn't think it felt finished, and there were avenues Calle could have explored. Also, the publication of this book is quite controversial.

An outwardly simple concept which reveals much more depth as it goes on. It somehow effortlessly peels away at the social construction around how we view ourselves and how others view us.

I was surprised by how much I enjoyed this fascinating and peculiar book. It's an indirect portrait of a man who is, as one of the interviewees says, "a cloud in trousers". The book itself is also a beautiful object.

I love this book and the amazing history. I like so much. I would like recommended this book, It's wonderful

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