

The Language of Film

www.thelanguageoffilm.com

Film: A Perfect Enemy

Director: Kike Maillo

Stars: Tomasz Kot, Marta Nieto and Athena Strates

Genre: Crime / Thriller

Run time: 1hr 30min

Rating: 3/5

A Perfect Enemy



A Perfect Enemy is a psychological thriller based on the book by Amélie Nothomb. A Spanish, French and German co-production filmed in English, it's the story of successful architect Jeremy Angust who is on a business trip to Paris, but when he helps a young girl on his return trip things take a sinister and criminal turn.

The film begins with Angust concluding a presentation in front of a **packed out** auditorium speaking about his architectural journey and his search for perfection. Afterwards he is **met off** stage by some photographers and fans for a book signing before he is duly **whisked away** to catch a flight, but not before letting us know about the painful loss he experienced in the city of Paris and how he still misses his wife that had left him there 20 years ago. On the way back to the airport, in the pouring rain, a young girl Texel Textor approaches his **chauffeur driven** car whilst stuck in traffic to plead for a lift to the airport and despite his own lateness he decides to help her out. As a consequence they both miss their flights and end up in the airport lounge.

The girl won't leave Angust alone and she is annoyingly difficult to **ignore**, which soon makes you wonder is there more to their chance meeting or does Angust have something to hide? He **gives in** to Texel's persuasion to have a drink in the airport lounge and when they start talking Texel's stories suddenly take things in a dark

The Language of Film

www.thelanguageoffilm.com

direction and as the events **unfold** they are **creepily** replayed inside the toy model of the airport, which August had designed himself, re-enacting the crime like a playhouse theatre.

The airport provides a simple setting for the stories to be told from and there are other nice locational shots in particular the Parisian **graveyard** here named as Montmartre. Directed by Spanish director Kike Maillou, who is tasked with blending together the present day sequences with the **flashbacks**, it doesn't always **fully grip** the imagination but still manages to create an unnerving atmosphere using some creative abstract scenes to explore the psyche of its protagonist.

Similar films:

Lost in Translation (2003): Dir: Sofia Coppola; Stars: Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson
Nocturnal Animals (2016): Dir: Tom Ford; Stars: Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal

Exercises:

A. Questions True or False:

1. It is an English film production? T/F?
2. Nobody is interested in his book signing after the presentation? T/F?
3. This is his first visit to Paris? T/F
4. He gives a stranger a lift to the airport? T/F
5. August finds it difficult to get away from the girl? T/F
6. August designed the airport himself? T/F

B. Vocabulary / Phrases Match

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. packed out | a) pay no attention to |
| 2. whisked away | b) reveal |
| 3. chauffeur driven | c) past memories |
| 4. ignore | d) a full venue |
| 5. unfold | e) concede |
| 6. creepily | f) grab your attention |
| 7. graveyard | g) scarily |
| 8. give in | h) taken somewhere quickly |
| 9. flashbacks | i) taken by car by someone |
| 10. fully grip | j) burial ground |

C. Discussion Questions:

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. Have you read the book of any films you've seen? Which ones?
3. Have you ever been on a business trip? Where did you go? What for?
- 4.. Have you ever missed a flight or been delayed? Do you like airport lounges?
5. If someone was annoying you and wouldn't go away, what would you do?

The Language of Film

www.thelanguageoffilm.com

D. Pronunciation & Listening Exercise:

a. Listen & practise your pronunciation (see *worksheet webpage* for download links).

1. Afterwards he is met off stage by some photographers and fans.
2. As a consequence they both miss their flights.
3. He gives in to Texel's persuasion to have a drink in the airport lounge.

b. Listen to the text and fill the missing gaps (see text below).

(download link on webpage)

E. Writing tasks:

1. Write an essay on whether you think business travel is necessary

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Answers:

A. True or False Questions:

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. T

B. Vocabulary Definitions:

1d, 2h, 3j, 4a, 5b, 6g, 7j, 8e, 9c, 10f

C. Listening Gap Fill

1. co-production 2. painful loss 3. lift 4. hide 5. psyche

The Language of Film

www.thelanguageoffilm.com

Listening Gap Fill

A Perfect Enemy

A Perfect Enemy is a psychological thriller based on the book by Amélie Nothomb. A Spanish, French and German 1. _____ filmed in English, it's the story of successful architect Jeremy Angust who is on a business trip to Paris, but when he helps a young girl on his return trip things take a sinister and criminal turn.

The film begins with Angust concluding a presentation in front of a packed out auditorium, speaking about his architectural journey and his search for perfection. Afterwards he is met off stage by some photographers and fans for a book signing before he is duly whisked away to catch a flight, but not before letting us know about the 2. _____ he experienced in the city of Paris and how he still misses his wife that had left him there 20 years ago. On the way back to the airport, in the pouring rain, a young girl Texel Textor approaches his chauffeur driven car whilst stuck in traffic to plead for a 3. _____ to the airport and despite his own lateness he decides to help her out. As a consequence they both miss their flights and end up in the airport lounge.

The girl won't leave Angust alone and she is annoyingly difficult to ignore, which soon makes you wonder is there more to their chance meeting or does Angust have something to 4. _____? He gives in to Texel's persuasion to have a drink in the airport lounge and when they start talking Texel's stories suddenly take things in a dark direction and as the events unfold they are creepily replayed inside the toy model of the airport, which Angust had designed himself, re-enacting the crime like a playhouse theatre.

The airport provides a simple setting for the stories to be told from and there are other nice locational shots in particular the Parisian graveyard, here named as Montmartre. Directed by Spanish director Kike Maillo, who is tasked with blending together the present day sequences with the flashbacks, it doesn't always fully grip the imagination but still manages to create an unnerving atmosphere using some creative abstract scenes to explore the 5. _____ of its protagonist.