

## Preloved

If you had a second chance at love, would you do it over again?



The premise for this story actually comes from a superstition about ghosts my mum told me: “never look at a photo on someone’s tombstone and think in your head that they’re attractive because they will come for you.” My mum has lots of funny (and even worse) superstitions like that, I always thought about documenting them.

I’ve also had a few people ask me, “have you ever considered writing about the stories from your cultural background?” I have entertained the idea of doing a retelling of my favourite love story – *Time Before Time* (about a ghost trapped in an umbrella) – but in a contemporary setting. So here it is.

*Preloved* is about Amy Lee, her neurotic Chinese mother and her best friend Rebecca Starling – Amy and Rebecca find a locket one day, more precisely the locket finds Rebecca, but Amy ends up with it instead. When she opens it, released is a ghost in the form of Logan Feldman, a teenager trapped in the locket since the 80s. Amy wants nothing to do with him, but Logan wants her to help him get in contact with Rebecca, who he says is the reincarnation of his former girlfriend who died along with him in the 1980s.

Sceptical at first, Amy can’t help be charmed by Logan, who is from an era when movies were cool and pretentious emo boys didn’t exist and she helps him investigate who he was and how he came to be trapped inside an old locket. Her investigations lead her to the mystery of a pair of teenage sweethearts who mysteriously vanished in the 80s... along with a third girl. To her horror, Amy discovers this girl, a jealous boyfriend stealer, might have been herself in a previous life, potentially responsible for the death of all three of them.

Even worse, Amy finds out that every 16 years or so going back in time, there is an ongoing pattern of a disappearance of two girls and one boy – and in the old newspaper photos - they all look suspiciously like Amy, Rebecca and Logan!

Is this Amy’s chance to put things right? Or will history repeat and the three of them find themselves stuck in a love triangle that will keep repeating itself into the future for all of eternity?