

THE BODECIA BOOK CLUB REVIEW

We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver

We didn't really know what to expect from this book. It was a recommended read by the features editor at the ET and when we were told the book was about a boy that goes on a premeditated rampage, killing seven of his fellow classmates, a cafeteria workers and his English teacher in a Columbine style massacre we had our doubts!

We at first thought it was a true story as this happens far too frequently recently, albeit in America. However it is purely fiction and it is written through the eyes of the killers' mother. It is through letters written to her husband whom she has been separated.

At the start, the letters look like it would confuse the reader but they each talked about separate times in the life of the mother. The author, Lionel, who is a lady by the way! captures the mothers judgment as she examines her sons life, from conception to the act of violence. She tortures herself with blame, that if she had been a better mother she may have prevented her son from committing such a crime. It makes you think whether psychopathic are just born bad or crafted with modern day excesses of violence in movies, tv and video games.

The mother is a difficult person to like and from her sons conception she is incredibly unhappy as she has had to give up a fulfilling career. She had everything a good job and a loving husband, a baby was the next stage of her big life plan and she did not expect to have such a troubled baby as Kevin is sullen and intractable at one, at four he destroys his mothers lovingly decorated study before rapidly progressing to tamper with the brakes of a neighbouring boys bike, blinding his sister in one eye and falsely accusing his teacher of sexual harassment. She does not bond well with her son at all.

It is not a feel good read and covers some dark issues and is difficult to read in parts. The ending is really sad and completely unexpected, well to most of our group! However, it is a book that compels you to read on to see whether there is some reason why Kevin does what he does.

Most of the book group are parents, and even if you're not a parent the circumstance would be any parents worst nightmare, that sometimes despite their best efforts, their offspring will turn out to be a sociopathic – while undermining them with the implication that really, raising a mass murderer is just one of those things, much like mastitis.

We gave We Need to Talk About Kevin **7 ½ / 10**

The book we are now reading is **People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks**

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Don't forget the first rule of Book Club!