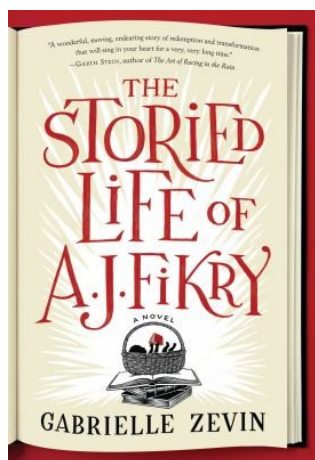


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

January 26, 2015

Biography:



Gabrielle Zevin's writing career began at 14 years old when an angry letter to her local newspaper about a Guns 'n' Roses concert resulted in a job as a music critic. Zevin is a graduate of Harvard University and lives in Los Angeles. Gabrielle's best known young adult novel is Elsewhere, an American Library Association Notable Children's Book. She is the screenwriter of *Conversations with Other Women* (Helena Bonham Carter, Aaron Eckhart) she adapted her novel Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac into the Japanese film, She has written for the New York Times Book Review and NPR's All Things Considered. Gabrielle's eighth novel, the New York Times Bestseller The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry, was published in April 2014.

Similar Books:

[The Bad Book Affair](#) by Ian Sansom

[The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#) by Mary Ann Shaffer

[A Man Called Ove](#) by Fredrik Backman

[The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry](#) by Rachel Joyce

[Water for Elephants](#) by Sara Gruen

Discussion Questions:

1. Consider the setting. Why do you think the author chooses to set the book on an island? How does the island setting reflect A.J.'s character?
2. Lambiase moves from an occasional or nonreader, to a reader, to a bookseller. How do you think becoming a reader changes him?
3. The author chooses to begin each chapter with a description of a short story. Discuss some of the ways the stories relate to the chapters with which they are paired. If these are A.J.'s favorites, what do they say about A.J. as a reader and as a man?
4. When did you become aware that Leon Friedman might be an imposter? What did you make of Leonora Ferris's reasons for hiring him?
5. Compare Maya's "fiction" about the last day of her mother's life to Ismay's version. Which do you consider to be more accurate and why?
6. Did you guess who Maya's father was? If so, what were the clues?
7. The author chooses to end the novel with a new sales rep coming to an Island Books that is no longer owned by A.J. What do you make of this ending? What do you think the future holds for physical books and bookstores? (*Questions issued by publisher.*)