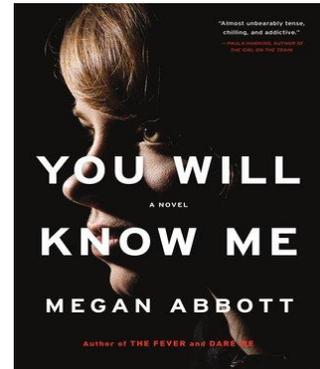


November 23, 2016

*Spotlight on Books:*

*You Will Know Me* by Megan Abbott



November and December are favourite months of the year for libraries and booksellers for this is when the “best books” lists start being released. A new novel by Megan Abbott is always a hot item and it will not surprise her fans to learn that her latest *You Will Know Me* has been named by the *Washington Post* as one of the best mystery/thrillers of 2016.

Abbott has charted the complexity of female adolescence in previous stellar novels – *The Fever* and *Dare Me* and in *You Will Know Me* she transports the reader to the sphere of competitive teen gymnastics and what an insidious world it is! As the author writes, gymnastics “ages girls and keeps them young forever at the same time”. Abbott scrutinizes both the adult encapsulated within the teen body and the teens trapped within the adult bodies. We meet Katie and Eric Knox who have dedicated their lives to their fifteen-year-old Devon, a gymnastic prodigy and Olympic hopeful. Devon’s gifts were evident from an early age and her parents have given beyond their means and their capacity to advance these talents. Have they done too much and how committed is Devon to her parents’ dreams of fame and glory? Do these gifts and achievements bring joy or stress?

The author of *You Will Know Me* does a superb job of developing Devon’s character while at the same time casting doubt on how well we can really know anyone. The mystery itself concerns the murder of a young construction worker who had been working at the gym and its resolution opens up a cesspool of lies, manipulations and jealousies. Certainly, *You Will Know Me* functions admirably as a crime novel redolent with psychological suspense but it is so much more – as a complex family drama it shines its spotlight on marriage and parenting and leaves the reader breathless on many levels. Yellowknife Public Library holds this title in print and e-Book formats, the latter through its Overdrive site.

- *Review prepared by Deborah Bruser, Library Manager*