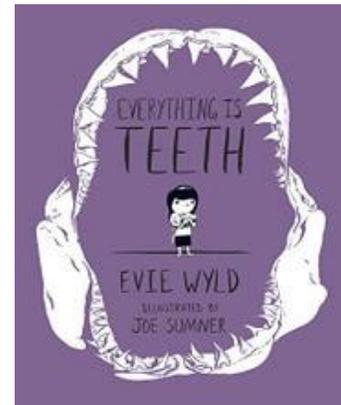


August 17, 2016

*Spotlight on Books:*

*Everything Is Teeth* by Evie Wyld; illustrated by Joe Sumner

Evie Wyld is an Anglo-British author whose name has appeared on several “best” lists of British writers under forty. Ms. Wyld also manages a bookstore in South Eastern England by the name of *Review*. Wyld has two prize-winning novels to her credit and her current graphic memoir, *Everything is Teeth*, seems destined to attract an equally strong following.



*Everything is Teeth* tells the story of Wyld’s childhood summers spent on the coast of Australia and her growing obsession with the sharks that inhabit these waters. Her fascination soon develops into a phobia and by age six the author is reading anything she can find on the subject and has developed a crush on shark-attack survivor Rodney Fox. (“*I solemnly understand you to be the greatest living man.*”)

Wyld’s graphic novel does not impart a great deal of information although we do learn that even rubbing against a shark’s sandpaper skin can abrade. Rather, it becomes clear that the shark is a symbol for that sense of “constant creeping dread” that even when one feels safest there is something dark lurking ready to disarm. The author’s text is spare, hinting at family difficulties (a bullied brother, a detached father) which are shark-like in the way they unsettle Wyld. Joe Sumner’s minimalist black and white illustrations (with a good dollop of crimson to represent blood) are a perfect complement to Wyld’s wise words as she struggles to face her demons and to make peace with the ambiguity that is her life. She eventually realizes that sharks, like all of us, are only trying to survive in a difficult world.

Check out *Everything is Teeth* from Yellowknife Public Library and, while there, do take a look at the shark books currently on display.

- *Review prepared by Deborah Bruser, Library Manager*