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Local readers weigh in on NEWRead

NEWTON—People are talking about *November 22, 1963*. It's the novel chosen for this fall's NEWRead literacy project at Catawba County Library.

“Intriguing” and “thought-provoking,” were comments repeated among local residents who have already read the re-imagined account of events surrounding the JFK assassination.

Adam Braver, author of the 2008 novel, will be in Newton to discuss his work at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14. That program will be free and open to the public. In the meantime, book clubs and individuals are checking out the book to see what the buzz is about.

Anne Stedman of Newton said she is recommending the novel to others. “The book definitely held my interest. I’ve already passed it along to my mother to read,” she said. Stedman, owner/operator of the Trott House Inn and mayor pro-tem of Newton, said she is excited at the prospect of the author coming to town. Like many others, Stedman remembers that fateful day in 1963 and is curious about how Braver researched the subject, having no personal memories of the Kennedy years. (Braver was born in 1963).

Gary Herman, public information officer for the City of Newton, was born after the assassination, but found *November 22, 1963* “a very interesting account. It was well written and an easy read. “It captured my attention,” he said, noting that the point of view of imagining Jacqueline Kennedy’s thoughts and feelings at the time was new territory for him. “That aspect surprised me,” Herman said.

Local historian and journalist Sylvia Ray said that the author’s style was particularly appealing.

“Hollywood publicists would call this book ‘riveting’ and ‘entrancing.’ I call it ‘troubling’ but ‘gripping,” she said. “As a journalist devoted to facts, I am repelled by the authors’ repeated fictionalized look into the thoughts of Mrs. Kennedy.”

Ray added, “The author’s style also made me devour the book. ...I absorbed it for the parts that complemented my curiosity for more information, not conjecture, about that tragic historic day.”

Copies of *November 22, 1963* are available for checkout at the library. Barnes & Noble Booksellers will have books available for sale and signing during Braver’s visit on Nov. 14.

The NEWRead is sponsored by Catawba County Library System along with Friends of Catawba County Library and South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council.



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