November 2013

Behind the Book: November 22, 1963

In observance of the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy’s assassination, Roger Williams University Professor Adam Braver’s book, November 22, 1963, was highlighted by Dallas Morning News as one of their picks “for the best JFK books...” Here’s what they had to say about Braver’s novel:

November 22, 1963, by Adam Braver (Tin House Books)

Published in 2008, this novel, like DeLillo’s, is another exercise in postmodernism. It zeroes in on Jackie Kennedy and captures the horror and trauma of the murder of her husband. For readers more interested in emotion than history, this novel certainly puts the reader there, in that limousine, in Dealey Plaza, in history.

— Don Graham, J. Frank Dobie regents professor of American and English literature at the University of Texas at Austin.

Adam Braver is on faculty and writer-in-residence at Roger Williams University, and has been a regular writer-in-residence at the NY State Summer Writers Institute. For more information visit his website.

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From the Nightstand: Professor Michael Scully

Professor Michael Scully has been on faculty in the Communication Department since 2007. He teaches in the journalism major.

Current Reads: Professor Michael Scully is currently working on getting his PhD in Humanities at Salve Regina University. For his coursework he is reading a large collection of texts that span the humanities, philosophy, and western literature. Two books that Professor Scully specifically notes are The Prince by Machiavelli and All That is Solid Melts Into Air by Marshall Berman, the latter of which he describes as a great piece of modernist work illustrating the economic modernization of New York City.

Memorable Reads: The Razor’s Edge by W. Somerset Maugham. Professor Scully recalls it as one of the most poetically written books he’s ever read. He also can’t leave out in Cold Blood by Truman Capote, due to its role in spawning the “potential for great non-fiction storytelling.”

Essential Reads: Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser. “An eye-opening read for anyone interested in learning about what they eat.” Another book that Professor Scully notes as “an important read” is John Galbraith’s The Affluent Society, which discusses how post-WWII America is privately rich yet publicly poor.

What are people in the Roger Williams University community reading? The From the Nightstand team asks which books are on people’s nightstands—either being read, or waiting to be read.