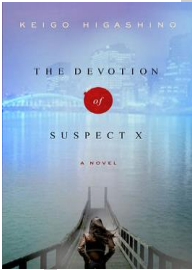




Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons Teacher's Book Review



The Devotion of Suspect X, Keigo Higashino Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, October 10th, 2012.

One of the reasons why I have always steered clear of mystery books is that they tend to focus more on plot than character development. This week's book contradicts my earlier observations about the mystery genre in that it presents a very intriguing protagonist. Normally when I read mysteries, I care little about the "who dunnit" aspect and more about what drives the character. This book is one of the most character driven mysteries I have ever read.

The book is the first in a series of books, called The Detective Galileo novels and they are written by a Japanese author and translated into English. They focus on the relationship between two friends as they partner up to solve crimes. One is a detective and the other is a physicist. This particular book extends beyond science into the realm of mathematics and explores which is easier – determining the accuracy of another person's solution to a problem or determining the actual solution to the problem. A high school teacher of Mathematics has loved his neighbor from a distance, for some time. Suddenly the relationship develops when he helps her conceal her role, and that of her daughter's, in the death of her abusive ex-husband. The character's name is Ishigami and his clever plan is threatened when an old university friend, the physicist, begins to unravel the deceit.

The twists and turns will keep you up at night reading this book but it is the surprise ending which will keep you from forgetting it.