

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2017

Regina Public Library investigates teen bestseller *13 Reasons Why* in city-wide book club

Amongst controversy, acclaim, and criticism, the teen bestseller (and hit TV series) *13 Reasons Why* by Jay Asher has sparked powerful dialogue between teens, parents, teachers and mental health experts worldwide. Regina Public Library brings together the public and a panel of local experts to discuss the book behind the hit series at our latest Top Shelf Book Club, at 7:30 pm on October 3, at George Bothwell Branch.

Top Shelf Book Club is not your typical book club. The public is invited to read the book at home, then join the conversation with a formal panel of local experts, who will engage participants in an in-depth conversation. This time, the panel includes Chief Evan Bray of Regina Police Service and Jim Demeray, President of Understand Us, a volunteer initiative dedicated to combating the stigma of mental health. Andrew Battershill, RPL Writer in Residence, will lead the discussion.

"*13 Reasons Why* is a controversial book that tackles dark, sensitive, and important themes," said Battershill. "We hope to engage in a useful, critical discussion of the ways in which this book handles those issues, and in so doing to empower readers to deal with even the most difficult topics."

"The conversations happening around *13 Reasons Why* highlighted for us the opportunity for a public face-to-face discussion about the content and the critical analysis of this work," said Nancy MacKenzie, Manager of Community Engagement and Programming at RPL. "Our aim is to engage the public and the panelists in a discussion about how readers and viewers can approach controversial and challenging narratives. We hope to foster critical reading skills and encourage readers to delve deep, analyze, interpret, and above all question."

The program will take place in the Flex Room at George Bothwell branch after hours. Please use the Flex Room door to enter.

-30-

Media contact:

Margherita Vittorelli
Marketing and Communications Consultant
Regina Public Library
mvittorelli@reginalibrary.ca
306.777.6114 (office)