

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



Still Alice, Lisa Genova Reviewed by Ms. Mouchbahani.

Still Alice, by Lisa Genova, is an intimate portrayal of a middle-aged woman who is suddenly hit with the news that she has early-onset Alzheimer's disease. A professor at Harvard University, a loving wife and mother of three, she struggles to maintain her relationships, her dignity and the life she's always loved and known. Written in a crisp, simplistic style with an unforgettably powerful effect, the reader deeply empathizes with a woman whose ardent and intelligent mind slowly deteriorates as the novel progresses. While Alice struggles to remember simple things like a name or a recipe, her family tries to maintain normalcy and is faced with difficult decisions. Genova, the author, who has a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Harvard University and is an online columnist for the National Alzheimer's Association, is the perfect authorial voice behind Still Alice. Her scientific expertise coupled with her writing talent and experience as a mother, perfectly balance the cold and indiscriminating hands of disease with human vulnerability and love. A compelling novel that raises awareness of a stigmatizing disease, bringing us inside the thoughts and feelings of its victims, Still Alice is a must-read.

