

Book Review

By Martha Richardson

No One Can Know

by Adrienne LaCava

Using the timely topic of the Kennedy assassination as the focal point of her novel, Adrienne LaCava builds intriguing subplots and characters, whose lives mirror the turmoil of the nation.

Having tired of a life of secrecy and danger, Gabriel Haines, a CIA operative, is about to retire to his friend's ranch. Unfortunate timing puts him in Dallas on November 22 and makes him a witness to President Kennedy's assassination. His profession once again exposes him to danger, and he must lay low at the remote Hill Country ranch.

Ivy Jean Prichard, a self-sufficient but lonely 12-year-old, is sent to stay at the same ranch by her father. Introduced to these, previously unknown, family members, Ivy Jean is confronted with the dysfunctional relationship of her spoiled cousin and her high society aunt. Intrigue builds when her uncle's mistress shows up at the ranch and involves Ivy Jean in unsuspected ways.

Meanwhile, Haines is involved in his own drama, when he realizes he is the target of sharpshooters who have staked out the ranch. He must figure out how to get away, without revealing his identity and endangering the family.

Although LaCava's work is fiction, her historical references and detailed descriptions of the life of a CIA operative, give the novel authenticity. In addition, the depiction of teenage psyche in Ivy Jean's behavior and thoughts are perfectly crafted. Told from an omniscient point of view, the author allows us to follow the various subplots, developing her characters as the action unfolds.

The book was an enjoyable read, which kept the reader's interest through fast-paced action and the promise of revelations to come.

Note: There will be a "meet the author" and book signing Thursday, November 14, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Kimble County Library.