Fall by Colin McAdam

Falling For Fall--A Disturbing And Deeply Human Story Of Friendship And Obsession

A masterpiece of adolescent perspective, emotion, impulse, and relationships: the riveting story of two male roommates at a co-ed boarding school and what happens when the girlfriend of one of them goes missing during their final year.

From an internationally acclaimed, prizewinning author, whom critics have compared to Dave Eggers and Michael Ondaatje, comes a tour de force: a mesmerizing novel that is at once a spellbinding psychological thriller and a brilliant portrait of adolescence that goes deep into the heads of two very different boys.

Awkward Noel thinks he’s been allowed into the inner circle of his elite boarding school when he discovers his senior-year roommate is to be handsome, athletic Julius. Julius, in turn, cares only for the fleeting joys of teenage life: sneaking out to parties, playing pranks with friends, and most of all, spending the night with his girlfriend, Fall. As Noel narrates this fateful semester from a perspective of many years, interwoven is Julius’s own in-the-moment experiences of first love and male camaraderie.

Always an outsider, Noel develops an unhealthy fascination with Julius, and his crush on Fall begins to border on a dangerous obsession. As Julius experiences all the pleasures of an eighteen-year-old in love, we watch as Noel self-consciously analyzes his interactions with Julius and Fall, convincing himself of a deep connection that might not exist. When Fall disappears close to winter break, Julius and Noel are forced to face their own inner desires, a confrontation that ushers the two boys out of the innocence of adolescence and into adulthood.
A tremendous literary page-turner that perfectly captures the agonies and delights of adolescence, Fall is the exhilaration and angst of teenage love and friendship— and the ultimate transience of those feelings.

Colin McAdams Fall charts the territory of a thriller as it contemplates the relationship of three boarding school students in the throes of love, friendship, and even obsession. Initially, standard character types are presented. There is Julius, star athlete and popular student, Noel, an awkward loner and Juliuss new roommate, and Fall, Juliuss lovely girlfriend. But, far from being a conventional thriller—Fall aspires to and achieves so much more! Told from multiple viewpoints, McAdam has crafted an extraordinary character study that sets up certain expectations about the three principles and then shifts and subverts those ideas as the story progresses. It is surprising, confounding, touching, and deeply human.

No one is quite as they seem as they struggle for acceptance and try to fit into the adult world. From the interior monologue of Julius, we see the stream-of-consciousness evolution of a boy to a man. From Falls story, we see a young woman wrestling with first love and the nature of her own beauty. And from Noels narrative, surprising truths of a darker nature start to evolve. While what happens may sometimes seem shocking, it always feels true. So the haunting Fall is a simple story thats likely to linger with you, I know it has with me. Definitely recommended, McAdam has created one of the more astute psychological portraits of adolescence that Ive come across in some time.

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