

## **We need to talk about Kevin – Lionel Shriver**

Over-analytical, complacent and accepting, honest and faltering, *We Need To Talk About Kevin* is a gripping read. Although difficult to get into at first due to its style of language, this book is well worth the effort and delivers a satisfying story with no set answers - just like real life.

It is a story narrated by Eva, the mother of Kevin who she suspects from an early age has a cruel streak. When Kevin is at high school, he kills seven of his fellow students and two staff just before turning 16.

The story is told through letters to her husband Franklin, recalling before Kevin was born and gradually leading through his life to the day it all happened. For Eva it was a difficult decision to make when her and Franklin decided to have a baby. It had never been one of her goals as a career focused woman although it interested her as 'a new adventure'. Once pregnant she felt alienated from her husband and this continued once Kevin was born. A central theme throughout is how Eva never felt a connection to her son from conception to birth and throughout his early years. Kevin had a terrible temper and was always acting out but Franklin never saw it this way or understands how Eva feels and they grow apart throughout the years.

The book is quite disturbing and stirred up much lively discussion in the Filkins Book Club, some loved the book and found it a compelling and compulsive read, others really hated it.

It is genuinely a book that will not be forgotten in a hurry.