

Senior Book Club

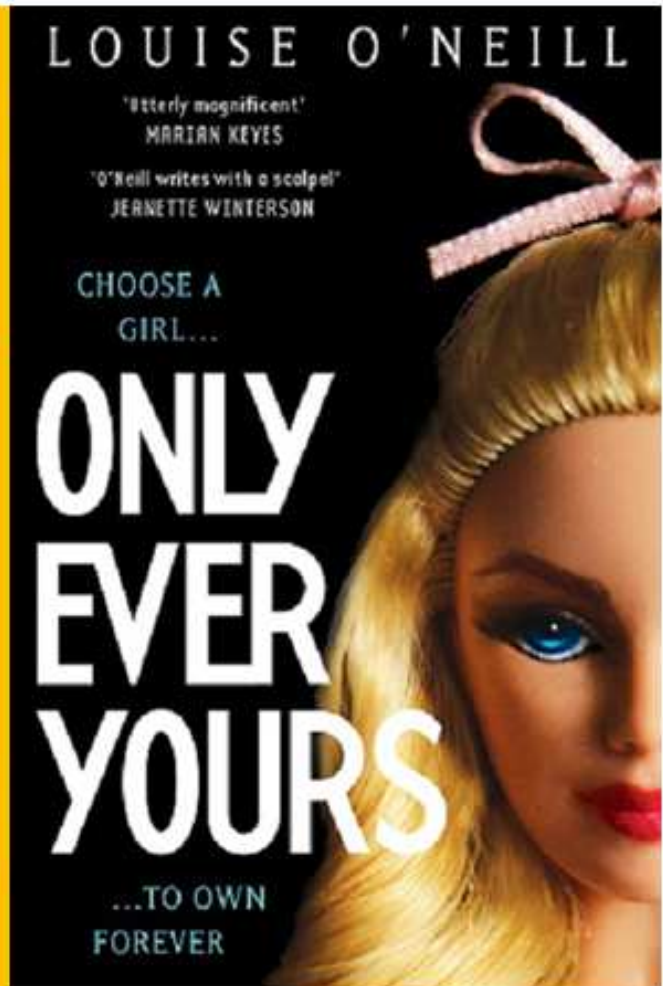
The book is set in a terrifying future in which girls are brought up in schools where they are prepared for the only three options available to women: a companion, or totally submissive wife, to a man their own age; a concubine, who will spend her life sexually servicing men; or a chastity, who will teach the next generation of girls.

Cut off from the outside world and forbidden to learn how to read, the girls spend their classes obsessively controlling their appearance and comparing themselves with their classmates. We see the school through the eyes of Freida, whose time at the school is almost at an end, and whose one real friendship seems to be falling to pieces. Only the 10 most perfect girls will be chosen as companions, and Freida is terrified that she won't be one of them.

Like all the best dystopias, *Only Ever Yours* is really about the world we live in now. Almost every surface of the school is mirrored, so even when the girls aren't looking at their own and others' pictures online or taking photos of themselves, they are presented with their own image.

"That's something I feel so passionate about," says O'Neill. "We're constantly consuming ourselves: is this image me? Is this image me? Is this what I am? It's not an internal process. There's a line in the book [when Freida thinks], I am an identity cannibal. That really resonated with me because we're constantly consuming this external picture of ourselves. It's all about how we appear to others rather than how we feel about ourselves."

**Next Meeting of the Book Club:
Thursday December 3rd**



With elements of *The Stepford Wives*, 1984, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Mean Girls* this book is **ABSOLUTELY** one of the more unusual, disturbing, and intriguing books that I have read in quite some time.