UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN

ANNOUNCEMENT

Florida International University

University Graduate School

Master’s Thesis Defense

Abstract

Family Medicine

by

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FAMILY MEDICINE is a novel about three young married women discovering their true desires in present-day Foley, South Dakota, a small town where privacy is next to impossible. Marcy Morrow, a queen bee with a seemingly ideal life, in a vulnerable moment reveals misgivings about her second pregnancy to Bridget Cunningham, who has risen from the wrong side of the tracks to be the wife of Dr. Herb Cunningham and his office manager at the town’s only medical practice. Bridget’s offer of off-the-books help begins a chain of secrecy into which Dr. Maka Smith, the practice’s other physician, is reluctantly pulled. Meanwhile, Marcy’s husband John Morrow runs for mayor against Dr. Cunningham, and the campaign heightens conflicts and prompts revelations that force each woman to reexamine her life, her ambitions, and the nature of friendship.

The novel uses a third person point of view that moves between Bridget, Marcy, and Maka, and sometimes pulls back to an overview of Foley. As in Anne Tyler’s Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, the multiple perspectives allow the reader to understand motives while heightening tension. The focus on a small community, as in Jane Austen’s Emma, uncovers the rivalries, alliances, and power of gossip in a circumscribed world.

Date: 30 October 2017
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Biscayne Bay Campus AC2 218

Department: Arts, Sciences & Education
Major Professor: Lynne Barrett

To: Dean Michael R. Heithaus
College of Arts & Sciences