



## L'AVIS DES LYCÉENS

*L'Empreinte The Fact of a Body*

Edition 10/18, 2020, 456 pages, 22 euros

### **Two crimes, one eye**

Alex Marzano-Lesnevich's book, *The Fact of a Body*, published in May 2017 by Flatiron Books, is a remarkable mix of investigation and introspection. The author combines fiction and reality while immersing us into a morbid universe.

*The Fact of a Body* tells us about two echoing stories. The first story is about Ricky Langley, a paedophile who killed young Jeremy Guillory. The second is about Alex Marzano-Lesnevich's dark past. Alex Marzano was a law student opposed to the death penalty before seeing the confession tapes of Ricky Langley. When they saw this, they wanted his death. They questioned their morality, and through this book they question our morality.

Can we forgive a murderer? Can the horrors of a crime be forgiven by being justified by mental illness, by being a victim of child abuse? Is it possible and tolerable to remain silent about perverse acts on the pretext of protecting a family? Are we protecting our family by doing this? In *The Fact of a Body* we are confronted to an incredible investigation that is intertwined with the author's past.

This book deals with diverse themes like incest, paedophilia and death penalty, and it is endowed with rare strength and sensibility. Alex Marzano-Lesnevich's novel is moving and fascinating. It was granted, among others, the Lambda Literary Award, the Chautauqua Prize, the Grand Prix des Lectrices de *ELLE* and the France Inter-JDD award.

Classe de 1re, spécialité LLCE, du lycée Edgar Quinet à Bourg-en-Bresse (01).