

House Rules by Jodi Picoult

The story is about Jacob, a teenager who has Aspergers -locked in his own world but aware of the world outside and wanting to make a connection. People who have Aspergers often have obsessions, Jacob's is forensic science. He tries to be like everyone else, but doesn't know how.

When his tutor is found dead, all the hallmark behaviours of Jacob's syndrome - not looking someone in the eye, odd movements, inappropriate actions - start looking a lot like guilt to the police. And Jacob's mother has to ask herself whether her child is capable of murder.

This book was enjoyed by all of the group, including those who had no personal experience of Aspergers. It was very thought provoking. We discussed people's attitude to "hidden disabilities." Also the effect on whole family when a child has a disability, not just on parents and their relationship, but also on their siblings.

It was thought to be a bit laboured at times.

Several members felt they would like to read other books by the author.