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precious

by SAPPHIRE

Book review: Push (Precious) by Sapphire

Words: Tricia Wambell

Line rating: ★★★★★

Published in 1996, most people will come to this book from the film whose full title is Precious - Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire. The author Florna Linton, is a poet and performance artist, who taught literacy in New York during the 1980s.

Illiterate 16-year old Precious tells the story in a stream of consciousness narrative. She is pregnant for the second time by her father. Her abusive mother treats her as a skivvy, and it is soon clear that she only keeps her, so that she can claim the benefits for Precious and her Down's syndrome daughter.

There is honor and degradation for one so young. You will pick up things that you will wish you never had to consider. Nonetheless this is a work of hopefulness and survival. Precious gains assurance through the friendship of the girls in her class, and through the support of a trusted teacher, who encourages her, but also challenges some of her preconceptions. Precious grows to love herself as she becomes literate and develops an understanding of black history, and the realisation that others have survived what she has been through. In the end she knows that she is able to give her children the love and nurturing that she never had.

Info: www.zendownload.com



Restaurant Review: Brompton Quarter Brasserie

Words: Michelle Adabra

Line rating: ★★★★★

It's not often we give out five stars here at Lime HQ but Brompton Quarter Brasserie is truly deserving. Sophisticated, simple and modern - the divine Brompton Quarter Brasserie in Knightsbridge is a real gem. Situated near Harrods, every thing about the restaurant oozes class. The clean and elegant décor is both warm and inviting and the menu offers a range of delectable dishes. For starters, I opted for the crab and avocado in a marie rose sauce, the avocado was wonderfully creamy, the prawns - juicy and the sauce, spot on. It's not often I feel food envy, and I was more than content with my starter, until I tasted the editor's warm, crispy duck salad. Imagine crispy yet tender pieces of duck in a sweet sauce, with shallots, chill, coriander, melon and

cucumber - your mouth should be watering by now. At the recommendation of the waiter we settled on a sublime white Chenin Blanc: 'Good Hope' from South Africa, which was the perfect white for our main of Seabass. Seabass is a personal favourite of mine and I have to say I thoroughly enjoying the pan fried fish which came with an exquisite fennel puree and new potato crush, capers, parsley and lemon zest - absolutely divine. Dessert is usually a chocolate fudge cake affair for me but I could not resist the Pistachio Daquoise which was almost too good for words, creamy, nutty and completely irresistible - I urge you to try this. Brompton Quarter Brasserie has just become one of my favourite London restaurants, the service is impeccable, the waiters are knowledgeable and friendly and the food is exquisite. I can't wait to go back. Must Try: Brompton Road cocktail - sweet, zesty and lethal!

www.bqbrasserie.com