

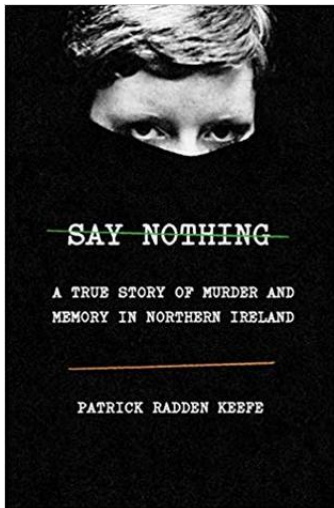
No Pressure Book Group Suggestion List- April 2022

The Waterbury Public Library's *No-Pressure Book Group* meets virtually on the **2nd Thursday** of the month, at 7:00. Join us to share what you are reading, trade suggestions, and generally talk books, in a relaxed setting. All are welcome!

Register at: <https://www.waterburypubliclibrary.com/no-pressure-book-group/>

There were a few common threads (!) among our book recommendations this month, but the major themes are reckoning with dark and sometimes unknowable pasts that have left an indelible impression on the present.

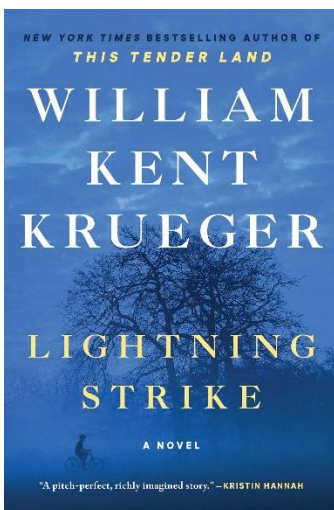
Some of the titles that were discussed that evening:



[Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland](#)

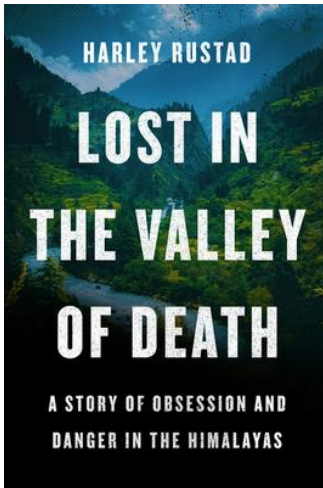
by Patrick Radden Keefe

A Friends of the Waterbury Public Library book sale find for our reader. This is the fascinating, novel-like true story of some of the darkest episodes of The Troubles in Northern Ireland in the 1970s. Following one particularly disturbing case, this book reckons with the aftermath of a society where brutal guerrilla warfare was a part of everyday life.



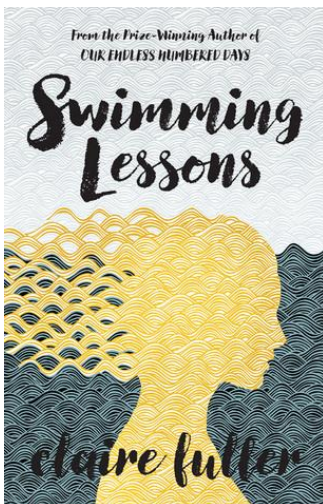
[Lightning Strike](#) by William Kent Krueger

Our reader doesn't usually choose mystery novels but found this one to be a nice, light read. A prequel to the Cork O'Connor mystery series, this is the story of long-simmering conflicts in a small Minnesota town. Twelve-year-old Cork finds a body hanging from a tree, and doubts his sheriff father's ruling on the death, launching his own investigation.



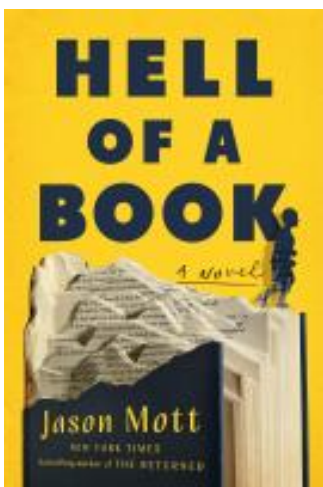
[Lost in the Valley of Death: A Story of Obsession and Danger in the Himalayas](#) by Harley Rustad

Our second nonfiction title of the evening, the sad story of an unsolved disappearance of an American backpacker in India, and a look at the draw and sometimes danger of the search for spiritual enlightenment and fulfillment.



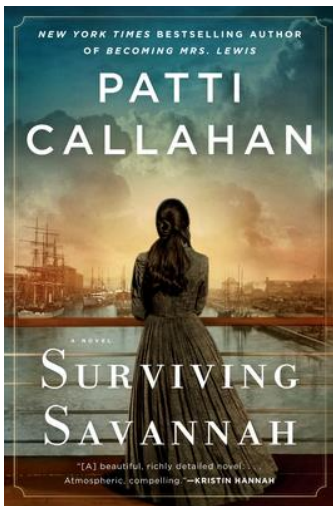
[Swimming Lessons](#) by Claire Fuller

The story of a marriage told through the letters a wife writes to her husband and tucks away into the thousands of books in his collection. An examination of the difficult truths and secrets that may life in a family and marriage.



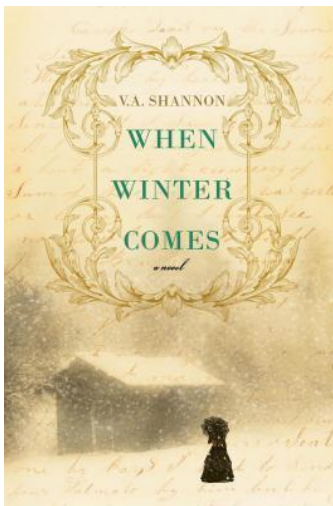
[Hell of a Book](#) by Jason Mott

At its base, this is the story of a Black writer on a book tour which is unraveling around him. But it's so much more than that – a complicated and beautiful examination of being Black in America today, wrestling with family and personal truths, the thin boundaries between real, imagined, and created. At times funny, disturbing, heart-breaking, and always very human.



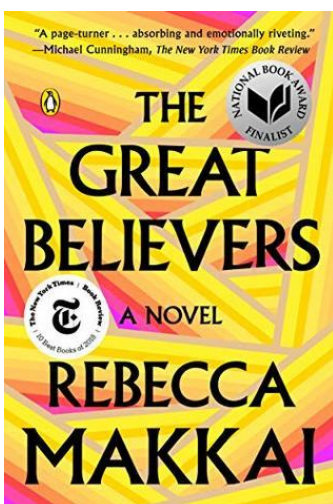
[Surviving Savannah](#) by Patti Callahan

A luxury steamship sinks in 1838; a modern history professor curates a collection from the wreckage. This book follows both storylines examining what happened to the Pulaski and the souls that were lost in the wreck.



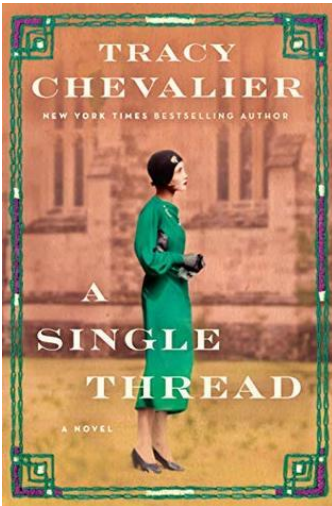
[When Winter Comes](#) by V.A. Shannon

An exploration the tragically unlucky story of the Donner Party. Wagons head west for California in 1846, and a fateful decision to attempt a shortcut through the Sierras as the snow starts to fall proves legendarily fatal.



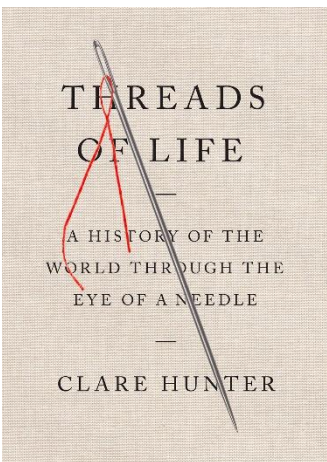
[The Great Believers](#) by Rebecca Makkai

Published in 2018, this story of the early days of the AIDS epidemic and reckoning with that time of fear and sorrow has a new power and meaning in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. On many best book lists for the year it was released, this is definitely worth picking up if you missed it then.



[A Single Thread](#) by Tracy Chevalier

The story of one of World War I's "surplus women," unable to marry in a world where so many young men were killed. Violet escapes the constraints of her difficult mother by joining a society of broderers – embroidering cathedral cushions and kneelers- and begins to discover a life that she never could have predicted for herself.



[Threads of Life: A History of the World Through the Eye of a Needle](#) by Clare Hunter

An eye-opening look at the history of textiles and the ways in which sewing, embroidery, and other fiber arts have given voice to marginalized communities – from Mary, Queen of Scots sending needlework messages to the outside world while under house arrest, to the AIDS quilt. A moving look at an under-explored area of history.