

No Pressure Book Group Suggestion List- December 2021

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/>

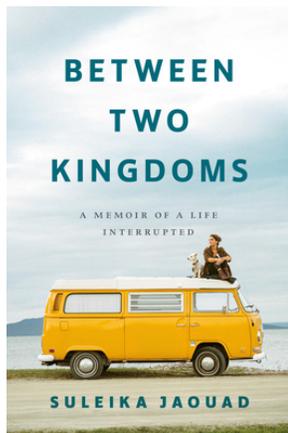
If there was a theme to our December suggestions, it may have been wrestling with the past – whether the book was historical nonfiction, biography, memoir, or undefinable, the common thread in many of these titles might be summed up by Faulkner's quote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Some of the titles that were discussed that evening:



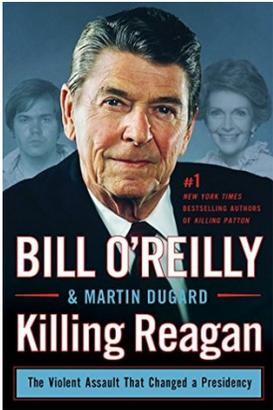
[China Room](#) by Sunjeev Sahota

Punjab in 1929 and 1999 is the setting for this story of a young Indian bride working in the "china room" and a young English-Indian addict discovering his family's history. These characters have more in common than it may initially seem as they struggle against the power systems that control their lives.



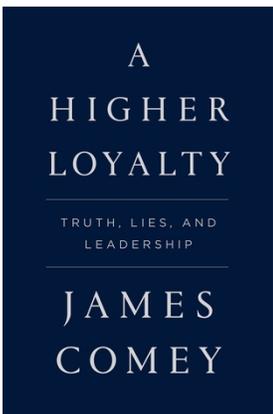
[Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted](#) by Suleika Jaouad

Suleika Jaouad was a young college graduate with her whole life ahead of her when she was diagnosed with leukemia at age twenty-two. She documented her four-year battle with cancer in a column for the *New York Times*, which would eventually become this profound, inspiring and beautiful memoir.



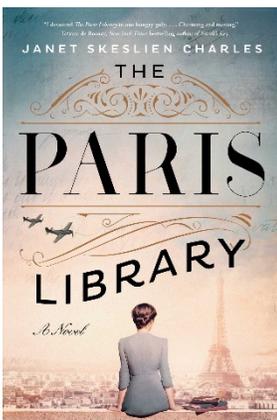
[Killing Reagan: The Violent Assault That Changed a Presidency](#) by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard

The epic story of Ronald Reagan's rise to power and the assassination attempt that served as a turning point in his career. Gives a glimpse into life behind the scenes of this controversial figure and his family.



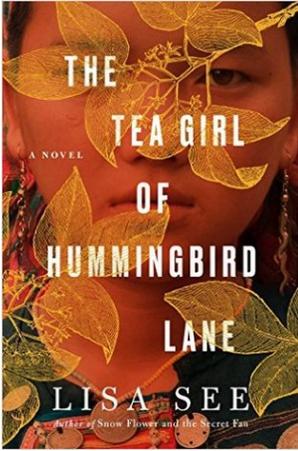
[A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership](#) by James Comey

Director of the FBI from 2013 to 2017, Comey was appointed to the post by Barack Obama. In this role and as a U.S. deputy attorney, Comey had a front row seat for some of the most important cases and investigations in the country's recent history.



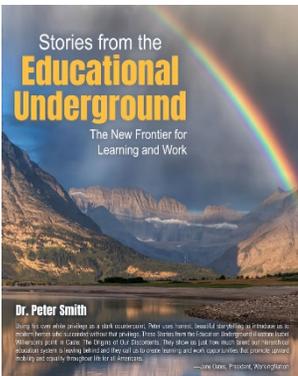
[The Paris Library](#) by Janet Skeslien Charles

While our reader was not entirely impressed with the writing, this based-on-a-true-story tale of librarians at the American Library in Paris is an intriguing one, especially for library lovers.



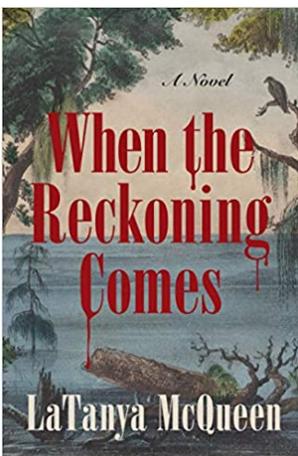
[The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) by Lisa See

By the beloved author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, this is the story of a girl grappling with and rejecting the tradition that defines her and her family's life, and of a mother and daughter seeking for one another across continents and decades.



[Stories from the Educational Underground: The New Frontier for Learning and Work](#) by Dr. Peter Smith

Dr. Smith redefines educational boundaries, arguing for the end to systemic discrimination through access to diverse experiential education, outside of the typical college model. Our reader declares that this book should be in every school guidance office.



[When the Reckoning Comes](#) by LaTanya McQueen

A Black woman reconnects with old friends at a lavish wedding on a historic plantation, where the spirits of the slaves that died there seek vengeance for the atrocities forced on them. A ghost story with a message.