

No Pressure Book Group Suggestion List- February 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/>

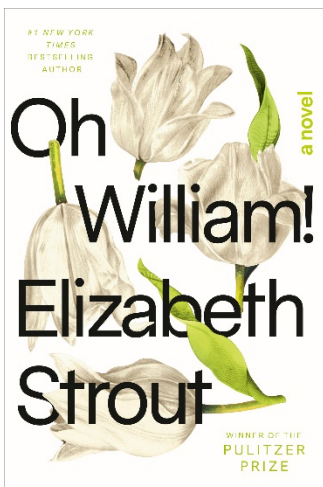
It's always interesting to see what common themes arise in a month. This time around we saw multiple books that featured strong, independent (and not always pleasant) women in difficult situations. And oddly, a couple of different game wardens made appearances.

Some of the titles that were discussed that evening:



[The Dutch House](#) by Ann Patchett

Our reader loved this book, a story of two children in exile who must rely on each other when their families turn their backs on them. Their close sibling relationship is put to the test as they face numerous challenges. Ann Patchett's book [State of Wonder](#) was also discussed, with one reader describing it as a wonderfully weird story of a woman researcher's experiences in the Amazon.



[Oh William!](#) by Elizabeth Strout

If you know and love Elizabeth Strout, as many readers do, you will love this book. Our reader proclaims that she enjoyed this book though she does not like Strout's Lucy Barton character quite as much as her Oliver Kitteridge. In this story, Lucy reconnects with her ex-husband (the William of the title) shortly after the death of her second husband and the two embark on an investigative journey of discovery together.



[Matrix](#) by Lauren Groff

Young, passionate and angry, Marie de France is cast out of twelfth century English court and sent to a remote abbey as prioress. Marie taps into her legacy of warrior women to take control under harsh conditions. A brief, intense, beautifully written book by a writer who deserves more attention.



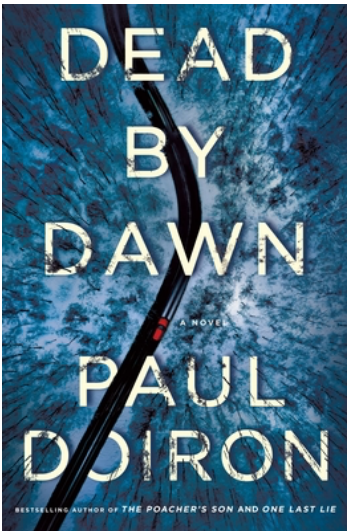
[The Forest of Vanishing Stars](#) by Kristin Harmel

Inspired by real people and events, the story of a young women in World War II who grew up under harsh conditions and brings her survival skills to a group of Jewish people who have fled the Nazis and found themselves unprepared for wilderness survival. An eye-opening and moving tale of people struggling to make it through the most difficult of circumstances.



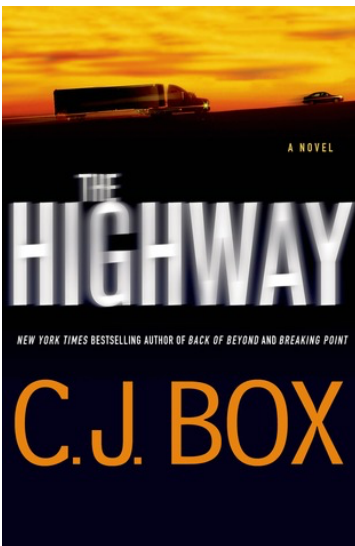
[Project Hail Mary](#) by Andy Weir

Our reader confessed that she gave up halfway through this science-fiction tale of a desperate attempt to save Earth through a very long-distance space travel mission that goes awry. By the author of the much loved book [The Martian](#), some found his writing to be too heavy on the science, while others absolutely loved it.



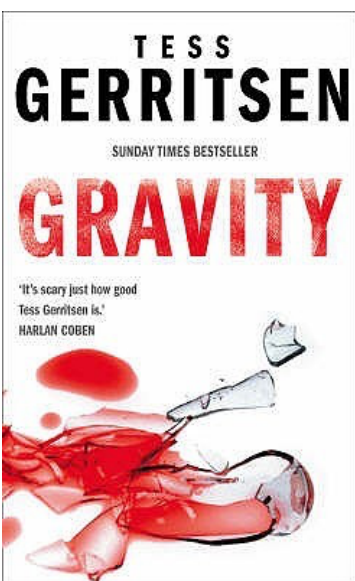
[Various titles](#) by Paul Doiron

We discussed the challenge and joys of finding a new author you enjoy with a nice long list of books to read, and knowing you'll be all set on reading for a while! One reader is trying out Paul Doiron, who writes thrillers about a game warden in Maine. An added joy of reading these books is familiarity with the New England locations.



[The Highway](#) by C.J. Box

Another prolific writer who tells stories of a game warden, this time in the Western United States, rather than New England. The Highway is the second title in the Highway Quartet, a thrilling mystery of two young women vanishing along a desolate stretch of Montana highway.



[Gravity](#) by Tess Gerritsen

A rare second science-fiction title makes an appearance at NPBG! Our reader was mesmerized by this story about an experiment on micro-organisms in space gone terribly wrong. A desperate rescue mission ensues as a surviving scientist attempts to regain control. Gerritsen is another prolific writer, and another reader commented on how much she enjoyed her book [Playing with Fire](#).