

NO PRESSURE BOOK GROUP 4/16/26: Attendees Phyllis Berry, Chieko and Judi Byron, facilitator.

Phyllis is reading *Black Dahlia*, by William J. Mann, just published this year. It is about the brutal murder of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short in 1947. The story has gripped the American psyche for nearly 80 years, yet no serious journalistic book on the case has ever been published until now. In previous accounts, Short had been mischaracterized as a wayward sex worker or con artist responsible for, and perhaps deserving of her fate. So, this gentleman who wrote the book is recreating her life, as well as the hysteria that followed her death. Bottom line, says Phyllis, is they still don't know who did it. Chances are, whoever did it's probably passed away by now anyway, or else he or she would be really old!

Phyllis' other book is a fiction, called *The Listeners* by Maggie Stiefvater. It takes place in a fancy hotel in West Virginia with the protagonist being the general manager of the hotel who is a woman. The family made a deal with the State Department to put captured Axis diplomats in the hotel. These "service" employees listen in on conversations. Phyllis couldn't give us anymore than that as she was still reading the book. Published in 2025.

Judi shared a book she bought in Peru called *The Awakening of the Puma, the Inca Initiation Path* by Maliku Aribalo. The book describes in detail, evidence of Archeo-astronomy.