
Kennebecasis Public Library – Book Club Program

Librarian: Madaline Boutilier

Email: Madaline.boutilier@gnb.ca **Phone:** (506) 849-5314 and ask for her.

Contact Madaline by email or phone to let her know that they are a part of the HIVE book club and what books the club wants brought in, when they are needed, and any future titles wanted if it has been decided.

We Are the Brennans, by Tracey Lange

About the Author: Tracey Lange was born and raised in New York City. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in psychology before owning and operating a behavioral healthcare company with her husband for fifteen years. While writing her debut novel, *We Are the Brennans*, she completed the Stanford University online novel writing program. She currently lives in Bend, Oregon, with her husband, two sons, and beloved German Shepherd.

A) Here are 13 discussion questions to help kick-off discussion. Members can take turns reading the question aloud.

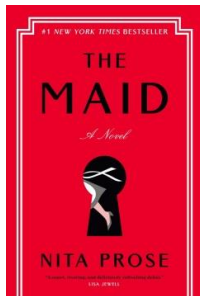
- 1.** Long-held secrets play a central role in the plot. Do you think important secrets can ever be kept without causing some kind of damage?
- 2.** Do you think Maura and Mickey Brennan's experience of the Troubles in Ireland led to their habit of secret-keeping? What caused the Brennans to be a family of secret-keepers?
- 3.** Is your family dynamic similar to the Brennans'? In what ways is it different?
- 4.** What is the significance of West Manor as the story's setting? How does it differ from the other cities mentioned, like Katonah or Los Angeles?
- 5.** Why do you think the author chose to tell each chapter from a different character's point of view? Do you think it was effective?
- 6.** Which member of the Brennan clan do you relate to the most?
- 7.** What do you think are the most important themes of the book?
- 8.** How did learning about the history between the Brennans and the Walshes change your view of Billy?

9. What roles do mothers play in this book?
 10. Do you think Sunday's coming back into Kale's life was ultimately a good thing for Kale? For Sunday?
 11. What do you think about Kale's relationship with Vivienne?
 12. Did you expect the ending to unfold the way it did?
 13. What do you think will happen next for these characters?
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B) Book questions and discussion from Book Club Members.

C) Discussion and choosing of the next book to read (by popular vote).

Here are some of the most popular books with availability from the Public Library:



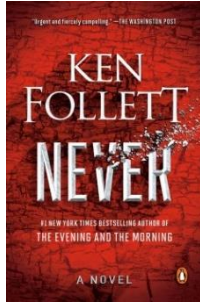
Title: The Maid

Author: Nita Prose

Pages: 289

Call Number: F PRO

Abstract: Molly Dunn is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and interprets people literally. A smile means you're happy. "Thank you" means you're grateful. Her Gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has had to navigate life's complexities all by herself. No matter--she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisply pressed uniform each morning, stocking her trolley with hygienically wrapped soaps and miniature shampoo bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection. But Molly's orderly life is turned upside down when she enters the penthouse suite of Charles Black, an infamous wealthy guest, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself very dead in his bed.



Title: Never

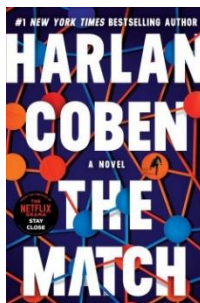
Author: Ken Follett

Pages: 802

Call Number: F FOL

Abstract: Every catastrophe begins with a little problem that doesn't get fixed." So says Pauline Green, president of the United States, in Ken Follett's nerve-racking drams of international tension.

A shrinking oasis in the Sahara Desert; a stolen US Army drone; an uninhabited Japanese island; and one country's secret stash of deadly chemical poisons: all these play roles in a relentlessly escalating crisis. Struggling to prevent the outbreak of world war are a young woman intelligence officer; a spy working undercover with jihadists; a brilliant Chinese spymaster; and Pauline herself, beleaguered by a populist rival for the next presidential election. "Never" is an extraordinary novel, full of heroines and villains, false prophets and elite warriors, jaded politicians and opportunistic revolutionaries. It brims with cautionary wisdom for our times and delivers a visceral, heart-pounding read that transports readers to the brink of the unimaginable.



Title: The match

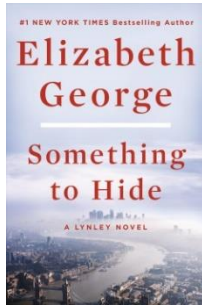
Author: Harlan Coben

Pages: 343

Call Number: F COB

Abstract: Wilde has grown up knowing nothing of his family, and even less about his own identity. All he knows is that, as a young child, he was found living a feral existence in the Ramapo mountains

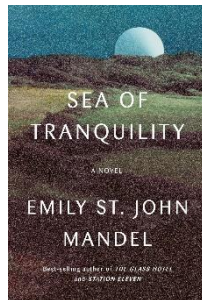
of New Jersey. He became known simply as Wilde, the boy from the woods. Now Wilde has had a hit on the DNA website he has been researching. A 100% match. His father. They meet up, and Wilde soon realises that his father doesn't even know he had a son and is as mystified as Wilde is by his existence. Undaunted, Wilde continues his research for his family on DNA websites where he becomes caught up in a community of online doxxers, a secret group committed to exposing anonymous trolls. Then one by one these doxxers start to die, and it soon becomes clear that a serial killer is targeting this secret community - and that his next victim might be Wilde himself ...



Title: Something to Hide
Author: Elizabeth George
Pages: 691

Call Number: F GEO

Abstract: When a police detective is taken off life support after falling into a coma, only an autopsy reveals the murderous act that precipitated her death. She'd been working on a special task force within North London's Nigerian community, and Acting Detective Superintendent Thomas Lynley is assigned to the case, which has far-reaching cultural associations that have nothing to do with life as he knows it. In his pursuit of a killer determined to remain hidden, he's assisted by Detective Sergeants Barbara Havers and Winston Nkata. They must sort through the lies and the secret lives of people whose superficial cooperation masks the damage they do to one another.



Title: Sea of tranquility
Author: Emily St. John Mandel
Pages: 255
Call Number: F STJ

Abstract: Edwin St. Andrew is eighteen years old when he crosses the Atlantic by steamship, exiled from polite society following an ill-conceived diatribe at a dinner party. He enters the forest, spellbound by the beauty of the Canadian wilderness, and suddenly hears the notes of a violin echoing in an airship terminal--an experience that shocks him to his core. Two centuries later a famous writer named Olive Llewellyn is on a book tour. She's traveling all over Earth, but her home is the second moon colony, a place of white stone, spired towers, and artificial beauty. Within the text of Olive's bestselling pandemic novel lies a strange passage: a man plays his violin for change in the echoing corridor of an airship terminal as the trees of a forest rise around him. When Gaspéry-Jacques Roberts, a detective in the black-skied Night City, is hired to investigate an anomaly in the North American wilderness, he uncovers a series of lives upended: The exiled son of an earl driven to madness, a writer trapped far from home as a pandemic ravages Earth, and a childhood friend from the Night City who, like Gaspéry himself, has glimpsed the chance to do something extraordinary that will disrupt the timeline of the universe.

D) Date of next meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 1:30PM.