

February 2026:

“A Pale View of Hills” by Kazuo Ishiguro

Set In Nagasaki in the early 1950’s the author establishes a very unsettling or disturbing atmosphere, that some felt was almost reminiscent of a ghost story. There were certainly undercurrents hidden between the interminable politeness of Japanese societal interactions. The book was a short seemingly easy read, but the group did not find it satisfying. Some found the historical detail interesting, but we all felt we were waiting for more detail in the plot and in the development of the characters.

The title of the book, gives a clue to one of the author’s themes; the unreliability of human memory particularly when relating to difficult or traumatic events. The sparse plot has a subtle reveal at the end, leaving the reader to draw their own conclusions. The book generated a very interesting discussion, but this was mostly critical. No one wanted to reread the book to look for further signs of the outcome.

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