

The April 8 meeting of the Wayne Public Library's Classics Book Discussion Group will be discussing Stefan Zweig's exploration of the terrible dangers of compassion,

Beware of Pity

The great Austrian writer Stefan Zweig was a master anatomist of the deceitful heart, and ***Beware of Pity***, the only novel he published during his lifetime, uncovers the seed of selfishness within even the finest of feelings.

Hofmiller, an Austro-Hungarian cavalry officer stationed at the edge of the empire, is invited to a party at the home of a rich local landowner, a world away from the dreary routine of the barracks. The surroundings are glamorous, wine flows freely, and the exhilarated young Hofmiller asks his host's lovely daughter for a dance, only to discover that sickness has left her painfully crippled. It is a minor blunder that will destroy his life, as pity and guilt gradually implicate him in a well-meaning but tragically wrongheaded plot to restore the unhappy invalid to health.

The Classics Book Discussion Group meets at 2:00 P.M. on the second Friday of every month in the Meeting Room at the Main Library, 461 Valley Road.

Copies of the books are available at the Reference Desk one month prior to the meeting.

Questions? Contact Liam or Pat, 973-694-4272, ext. 5506 or 5410.

