

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB
March 8 2023 at 2 p.m. at Ellen Buerklin's
Mioko Kawakami, *All the Lovers in the Night*
(2011, English translation, 2022)

Discussion Topics

1. Facts about the author or Japanese culture that might help us to understand the novel. What are the limitations we encounter when we read a translated book?
2. Elements of style, structure and narrative technique.
3. What kind of novel is this?
4. How would you describe Fuyuko Irie's character, profession, situation in life? What facts about her are *not* revealed by the author?
5. How does she view the process of proofreading? Does she identify herself as a person who reads a great deal?
6. What does the author reveal about her manager, Hijiri? Are Hijiri and Fuyuko friends? What *is* the nature of their relationship?
7. Why does Fuyuko begin to drink? When and why does she stop?
8. What role does Mitsutsuka play in her life and in the novel? What impressions do we have of him?
9. What aspects of their relationship are satisfying to each of them?
10. The author gives us information about Kyoko and Noriko, two other women whom Kuyuko knows. What is their function in the book?
11. What would you say are the main themes of this novel?

12. What does it mean that Kuyuko writes the book's title on a blank piece of paper at the end of the book?

13. What makes this a good book, worthy of translation into many languages? Are you glad you read it?