

# Book Club Resource Guide

*Hell Holes: What Lurks Below*

by Donald Firesmith

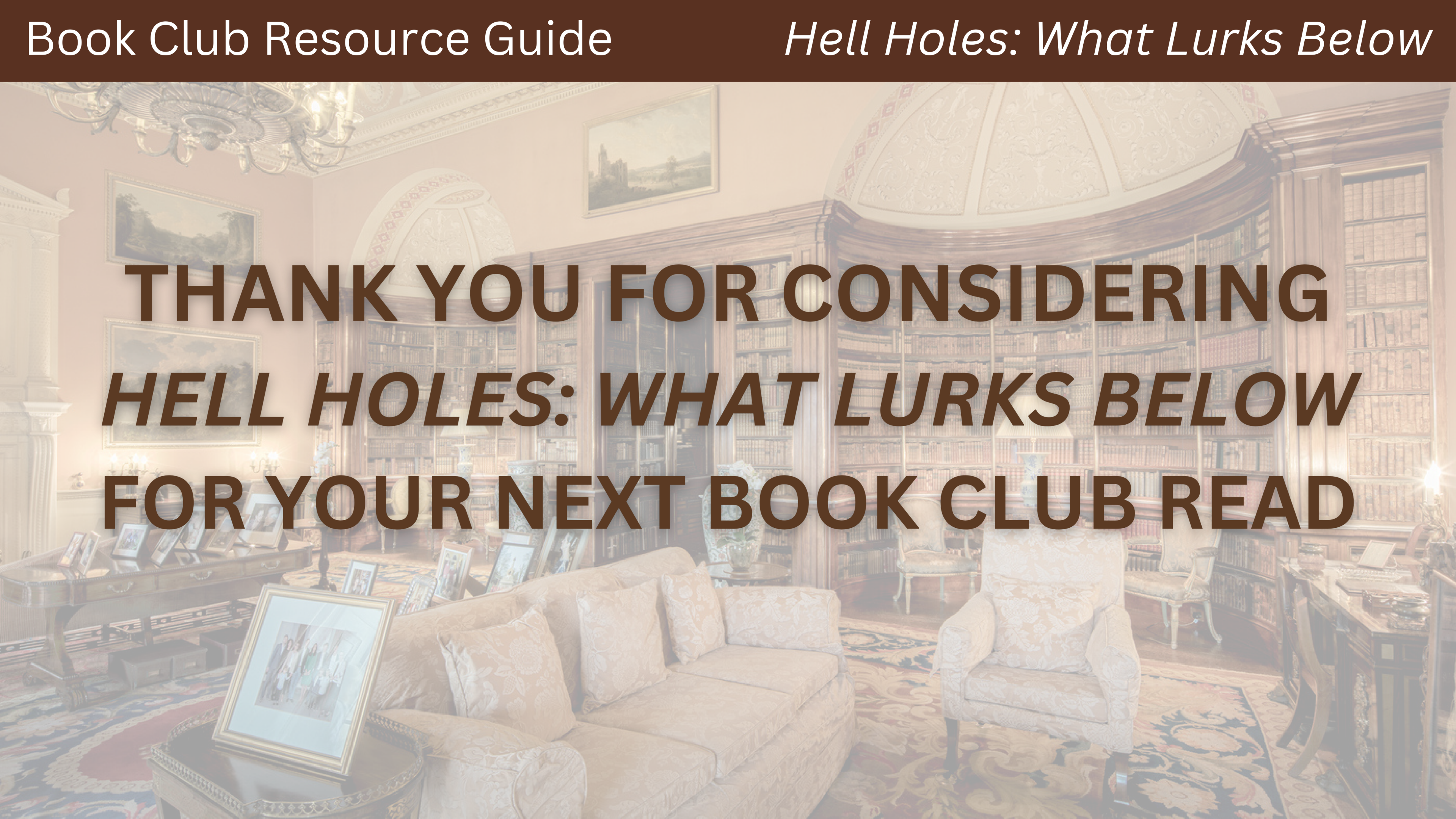
The book cover features a large, stylized title 'HELL HOLES' in a gothic font, set against a circular emblem with a grid pattern and the word 'CONTRA' at the top. Below the title, it says 'BOOK I: WHAT LURKS BELOW'. The background is a dark blue night sky with a person in a red hoodie and backpack looking out over a landscape with blue flames. The author's name 'DONALD FIRESMITH' is at the bottom.

HELL  
HOLES

BOOK I: WHAT LURKS BELOW

DONALD FIRESMITH



A grand, ornate library with a curved bookshelf, a chandelier, and a patterned rug. The room is filled with books and framed pictures, creating a classic and sophisticated atmosphere.

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING  
*HELL HOLES: WHAT LURKS BELOW*  
FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK CLUB READ**

## **Embark on a Chilling Expedition in this Terrifying Tale of Survival Against Demonic Aliens. (page 1 of 2)**

As summer wanes in the rugged wilderness of Alaska's North Slope, geology professor Jack Oswald prepares for the Fall semester. But then, hundreds of enormous holes suddenly appear in the frozen tundra north of the Arctic Circle. Summoned by an oil company's urgent call to investigate, Jack assembles a diverse team: his climatologist wife, two of their eager graduate students, and a stunningly beautiful photojournalist, Aileen O'Shannon, whose strangely persuasive skills land her a spot on their expedition.

Set against the backdrop of the remote oil fields south of Deadhorse, their mission is clear: evaluate the potential threat posed by these mysterious holes to the vital Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the oil fields that fuel it. Accompanied by an oil company executive and a wildlife expert tasked with safeguarding them from Arctic predators, the group begins researching one such monstrous pit in the rock-hard permafrost.

Yet, what starts as a straightforward scientific study turns into a nightmarish confrontation with an invading army of demonic aliens, intent on the total conquest of Earth as its new feeding grounds.

*Hell Holes: What Lurks Below* is not just a science fiction thriller; it's a gripping saga of survival that blurs the line between science and superstition. Each masterfully crafted page thrusts readers into a relentless fight for survival, and the stakes are nothing less than the survival of humanity itself.

## **Embark on a Chilling Expedition in this Terrifying Tale of Survival Against Demonic Aliens. (page 2)**

Perfect for fans of realistic, action-packed, alien invasion science fiction and tales of demonic horror, *Hell Holes: What Lurks Below* will transport you on a heart-thumping journey of survival in the face of overwhelming odds. Can Jack and his team stay ahead of the advancing army or will they fall victim to the ravenous invaders?

Discover the answer in *Hell Holes: What Lurks Below* – your ticket to an adventure where the chilling expanse of the Alaskan wilderness meets the infernal terror of an alien onslaught.

WORD COUNT: 39,000

PAGE COUNT: 166

Illustrations: 12

GENRES: Science Fiction (Alien Invasion, Apocalyptic), Horror, Urban Paranormal

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1515068075

KINDLE ASIN: B012IUE14U

AUDIOBOOK ASIN: B08P2CW4ZH

Book Award



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are designed to delve into the book's deeper themes and character dynamics, providing a platform for engaging and meaningful discussions.

1. **Survival Instincts:** How do the characters' reactions to the hell holes reflect their survival instincts? Discuss examples of both rational and irrational behaviors.
2. **Character Dynamics:** Analyze the dynamics between the main characters. How do their relationships affect their decision-making and survival strategies?
3. **Alaskan Setting:** Discuss how the Alaskan wilderness contributes to the atmosphere of the story. What role does the setting play in the plot?
4. **Humanity's Response:** How do you think humanity would respond to a global crisis like the one depicted in the book?
5. **The Unknown:** The hell holes represent the unknown. Discuss how fear of the unknown is a theme in the book and how it drives the plot.
6. **Alien Creatures:** Discuss the depiction of the alien creatures. How do they compare to other alien portrayals in science fiction?

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7. **Suspense and Pacing:** How does the author build suspense throughout the novel? Discuss the pacing and how it affects the reading experience.
8. **Impact of Technology:** What role does technology play in the story? Discuss how it helps or hinders the characters.
9. **Environmental Concerns:** The hell holes appear near the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Discuss how the book touches on environmental issues.
10. **Leadership:** Who emerges as a leader in the story, and why? Discuss the qualities that make for effective leadership in crisis situations.
11. **Series Continuation:** This book is the first in a series. What are your predictions for the next book based on the ending of "What Lurks Below"?
12. **Reader's Connection:** Which character did you connect with the most, and why? How did their journey affect you as a reader?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Donald Firesmith is a multi-award-winning author of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, paranormal horror, and modern urban paranormal novels and collections of short stories. Because of his strong background in software/system engineering and science, his science fiction is well-researched, and he relies on numerous science, technology, and military technical advisors to ensure that the non-speculative aspects of his stories are realistic and believable.

Prior to retiring to become a full-time novelist and short story author, Donald Firesmith earned an international reputation as a distinguished engineer, authoring seven system/software engineering books and nearly 300 technical articles and conference papers based on his 40+ years spent developing large, complex software-intensive systems.

He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with his wife Becky, and varying numbers of dogs and cats.

<https://donaldfiresmith.com>

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