



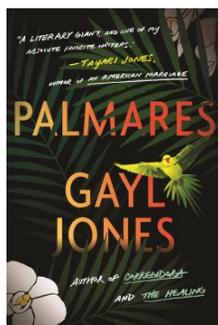
# Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

## Readalikes for *Let Us Descend*

Dundee Library Book Club, May 2024

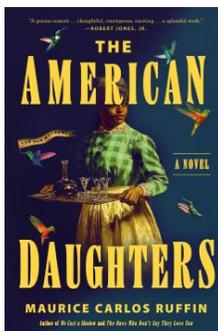
### Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



#### *Palmares*

by Gayl Jones

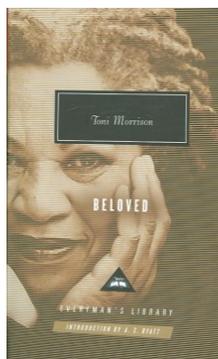
In a world impacted by greed, conquest and colonial desire, Almeyda, a Black slave girl who, after a fugitive slave settlement called Palmares is destroyed, embarks on a life-altering journey across Brazil to find her husband, lost in battle.



#### *The American daughters : a novel*

by Maurice Carlos Ruffin

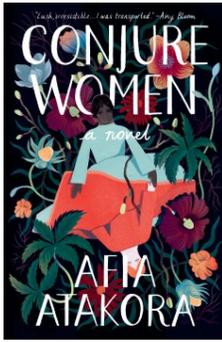
Enslaved to a businessman in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Ady, when she's separated from her mother, meets Lenore, a free black woman who invites her to join a clandestine society of spies called the Daughters, setting her on a journey toward liberation and imagining a new future.



#### *Beloved*

by Toni Morrison

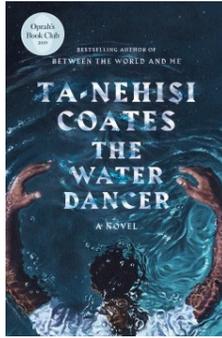
Sethe, an escaped slave living in post-Civil War Ohio with her daughter and mother-in-law, is haunted persistently by the ghost of the dead baby girl whom she sacrificed.



### *Conjure women : a novel*

by Afia Atakora

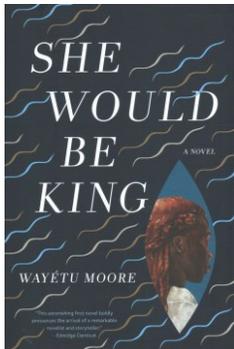
A midwife and conjurer of curses reflects on her life before and after the Civil War, her relationships with the families she serves and the secrets she has learned about a plantation owner's daughter.



### *The water dancer : a novel*

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

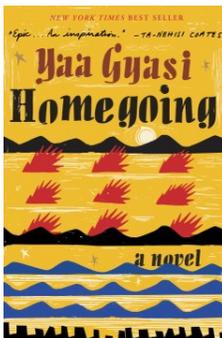
A Virginia slave narrowly escapes a drowning death through the intervention of a mysterious force that compels his escape and personal underground war against slavery.



### *She would be king : a novel*

by Wayãetu Moore

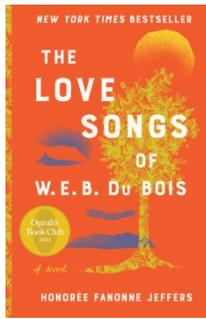
Reimagines the dramatic story of Liberia's early years through three unforgettable characters who share an uncommon bond.



### *Homegoing*

by Yaa Gyasi

Two half-sisters, unknown to each other, are born into different villages in 18th-century Ghana and experience profoundly different lives and legacies throughout subsequent generations marked by wealth, slavery, war, coal mining, the Great Migration and the realities of 20th-century Harlem.



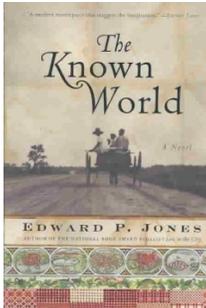
### *The love songs of W.E.B. Du Bois : a novel*

by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

To come to terms with who she is and what she wants, Ailey, the daughter of an accomplished doctor and a strict schoolteacher, embarks on a journey through her family's past, helping her embrace her full heritage, which is the story of the Black experience in itself.

## Books at other libraries in our consortium

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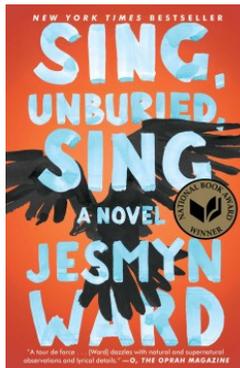
### *The known world*

by Edward P. Jones

When a plantation proprietor and former slave--now possessing slaves of his own--dies, his household falls apart in the wake of a slave rebellion and corrupt underpaid patrollers who enable free black people to be sold into slavery.

## Also by Jesmyn Ward

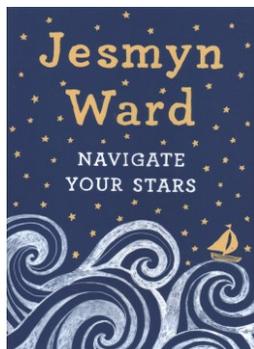
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### *Sing, unburied, sing : a novel*

by Jesmyn Ward

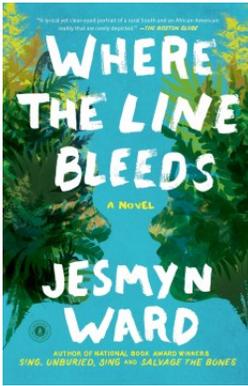
Living with his grandparents and toddler sister on a Gulf Coast farm, Jojo navigates the challenges of his tormented mother's addictions and his grandmother's terminal cancer before the release of his father from prison prompts a road trip of danger and hope. By the National Book Award-winning author of *Salvage the Bones*.



### *Navigate your stars*

by Jesmyn Ward

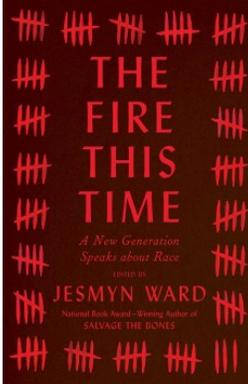
The two-time National Book Award-winning author of *Sing, Unburied, Sing* presents a sumptuously illustrated meditation on the power of tenacity in the face of hardship as well as the importance of respect of the self and others.



## *Where the line bleeds : a novel*

by Jesmyn Ward

Twin brothers struggle with the responsibilities of adulthood and family in the post-Katrina Mississippi Gulf coast.



## *The fire this time : a new generation speaks about race*

by Jesmyn Ward

The National Book Award-winning author of *Salvage the Bones* presents a continuation of James Baldwin's 1963 *The Fire Next Time* that examines race issues from the past half century through essays, poems and memoir pieces by some of her generation's most original thinkers and writers.