



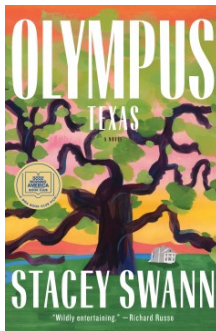
Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

Readalikes for *Mercury*

Dundee Library Book Club, April 2025

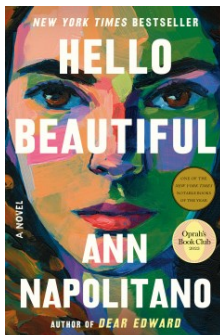
Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



Olympus, TX

by Stacey Swann

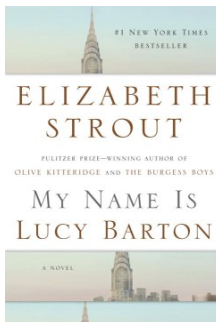
Weaving elements of classical mythology into a thoroughly modern family drama, this novel follows the Briscoe family as prodigal son March returns home and with his arrival, marriages are upended and even the strongest of alliances are shattered.



Hello beautiful

by Ann Napolitano

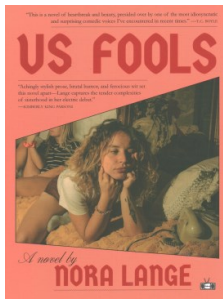
Awarded a college basketball scholarship away from his childhood home silenced by tragedy, a young man befriends a spirited young woman who welcomes him into her loving, loud, chaotic household, in the new novel by the author of *Dear Edward*.



My name is Lucy Barton : a novel

by Elizabeth Strout

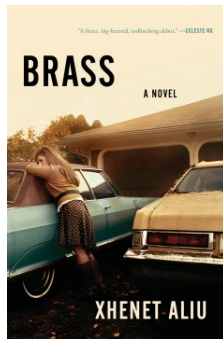
After an appendix operation puts her in the hospital, New York writer Lucy Barton reconnects with her estranged mother as the pair reminisce about the past. By the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Olive Kitteridge*.



Us Fools

by Nora Lange

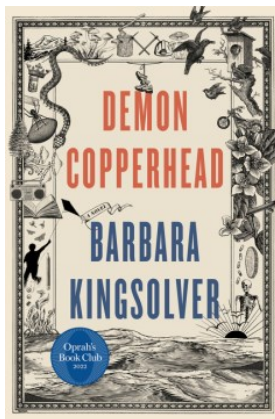
A woman reflects on how she and her sister struggled to survive on their family's Illinois farm during the mid-1980s recession. At nine, Bernadette Fareown and her impulsive 11-year-old sister, Joanna, call themselves "junk kids." Their family's homestead has seen better days, and the mood is glum, especially after Jo's attempted suicide following her diagnosis of severe scoliosis. With their parents unable to pay the bills, Bernadette "watched my family fall apart, over and over." Bankrupt, they flee to a Chicago apartment, where Bernadette pursues her dream of a formal education while Jo's behavior becomes increasingly reckless. Bernadette's recounting of the family's history follows her recent trip to Alaska to see Jo, who is pregnant and has been recently released from a mental hospital. Lange's lucid story digs deep into the bonds of family and the alliances that are formed and retained across time and despite changing circumstances.



Brass

by Xhenet Aliu

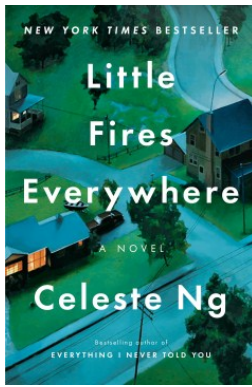
Told in biting parallel narratives, the stories of a Lithuanian immigrant waitress and her illegitimate daughter follow the former's struggles to secure a better life and the latter's determined efforts to connect with the father she never knew.



Demon Copperhead

by Barbara Kingsolver

The son of an Appalachian teenager uses his good looks, wit and instincts to survive foster care, child labor, addiction, disastrous loves and crushing losses, in the new novel from the best-selling author of Unsheltered.



Little fires everywhere

by Celeste Ng

Fighting an ugly custody battle with an artistic tenant who has little regard for the strict rules of their progressive Cleveland suburb, a straitlaced family woman who is seeking to adopt a baby becomes obsessed with exposing the tenant's past, only to trigger devastating consequences for both of their families.

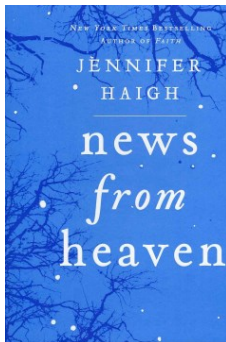
Books at other libraries in our consortium



Mercy Snow

by Tiffany Baker

A tragic bus accident has devastating repercussions for two families from opposite sides of the tracks of a tiny, New England paper milling town in this new novel from the best-selling author of the Little Giant of Aberdeen County. 30,000 first printing.

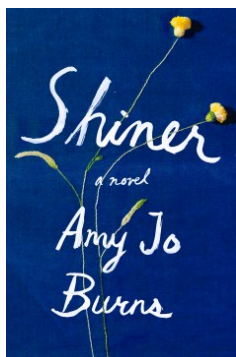


News from heaven

by Jennifer Haigh

Portraying the close-knit community of Bakerton, Pennsylvania through a series of interconnected stories, the author, exploring themes of regret, redemption and acceptance, depicts unforgettable characters from different generations shaped by dreams and plagued by disappointments.

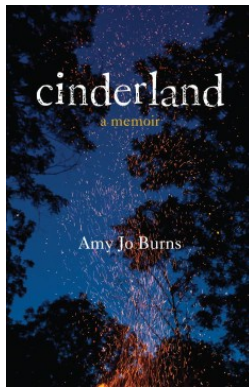
Also by Amy Jo Burns



Shiner

by Amy Jo Burns

Growing up in a cloistered mountain cabin cut off from everyone in the outside world except her mother's best friend, a fanatical snake handler's daughter risks everything to defy her father and pursue a different future.



Cinderland

by Amy Jo Burns

Amy Jo Burns grew up in Mercury, PA--a small, conservative Rust Belt town fallen sleepy a decade after the steel industry's collapse. But the year Amy turned ten, everyone in Mercury woke up. That was the year Howard Lotte, Mercury's beloved piano teacher, was accused of committing indiscretions during his lessons. Among the girls questioned, only seven dared to tell the truth that would ostracize them from the community. Amy Jo Burns was one of the girls who lied. Her memoir, CINDERLAND, navigates the impact that lie had on her adolescent years to follow--tracing all the boys she ran from and toward, the girls she betrayed, and the endless performances she put on to please a town that never trusted girls in the first place. CINDERLAND is literary memoir of the highest caliber. A slim, searing feat of narrative beauty, it is full of psychologically nuanced grappling, imagery of fire and steel, and eerily universal shadows of adolescence.