

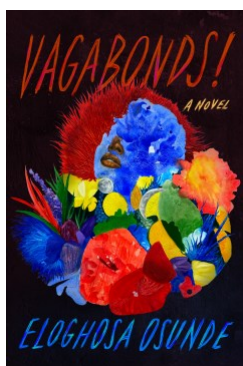


Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

Readalikes for *The Death of Vivek Oji* The Queer Book Club, August 2023

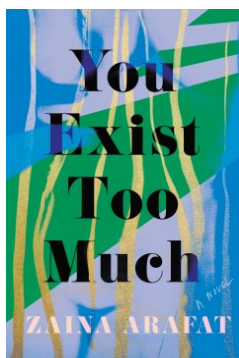
Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



Vagabonds!

by Eloghosa Osunde

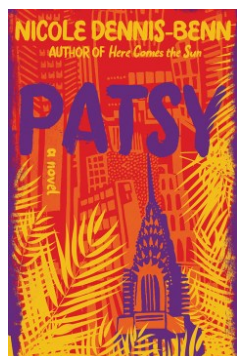
In Nigeria, the lives of a group of vagabonds—the poor, the queer, the drivers and dancers, the abused, displaced and vulnerable—intertwine in bustling markets and underground clubs, churches and hotel rooms where they are seized and challenged by spirits who command the city's dark energy.



You exist too much : a novel

by Zaina Arafat

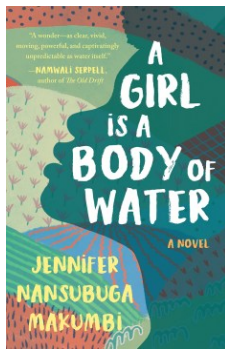
Told in vignettes that occur in American and Middle East settings, a debut novel follows the experiences of a young Palestinian-American who is marginalized for her sexual orientation before the traumas of her past drive her toward self-destructive impulses.



Patsy : a novel

by Nicole Dennis-Benn

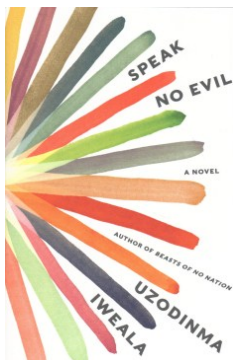
Receiving her long-coveted visa to America, Patsy leaves behind her family in Jamaica only to discover that life as an undocumented immigrant is not what her best friend had described.



A girl is a body of water

by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

Coming of age with the support of the women in her Ugandan village, a girl struggling with abandonment seeks answers at the side of a local witch who shares stories about their culture's heritage of female strength.



Speak no evil : a novel

by Uzodinma Iweala

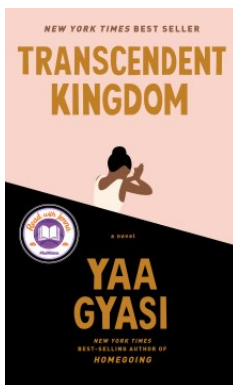
An Ivy League-bound star athlete from a prestigious private school in Washington, D.C., and his best friend, the daughter of prominent government insiders, struggle with brutal responses to the young man's sexual orientation before finding themselves speeding toward a violent and senseless future.



On earth we're briefly gorgeous : a novel

by Ocean Vuong

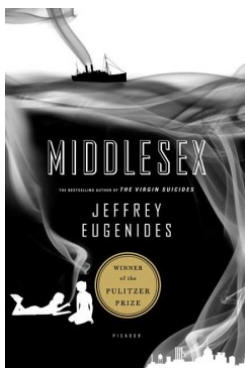
Brilliant, heartbreaking, tender, and highly original - poet Ocean Vuong's debut novel is a sweeping and shattering portrait of a family, and a testament to the redemptive power of storytelling. On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born--a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam--and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity.



Transcendent kingdom

by Yaa Gyasi

A follow-up to the best-selling Homegoing finds a sixth-year PhD candidate grappling with the childhood faith of the evangelical church in which she was raised while researching the science behind the suffering that has devastated her Ghanaian immigrant family.

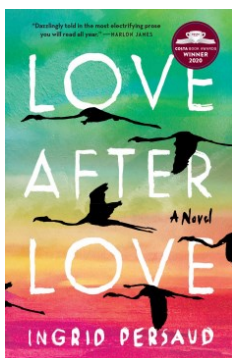


Middlesex

by Jeffrey Eugenides

Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s.

Books at other libraries in our consortium



Love after love : a novel

by Ingrid Persaud

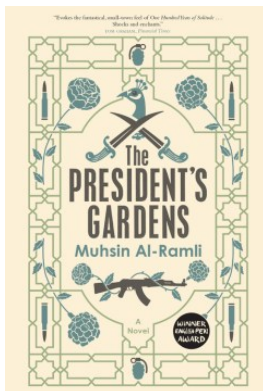
After Betty Ramdin's abusive husband dies, she invites a colleague, Mr. Chetan, to move in with her and her son, Solo, as their lodger. Over time, these three form an unconventional family, loving each other deeply and depending upon one another. Then, one fateful night, Solo overhears Betty confiding in Mr. Chetan and learns a secret that plunges him into torment. Ultimately sends him running to live a lonely life in New York City, devastating Betty in the process. Yet, both Solo and Betty are buoyed by the continuing love and friendship of Mr. Chetan, until his own burdensome secret is uncovered with heart breaking consequences. In vibrant, addictive Trinidadian prose,



The posthumous memoirs of Brás Cubas : a novel

by Machado de Assis

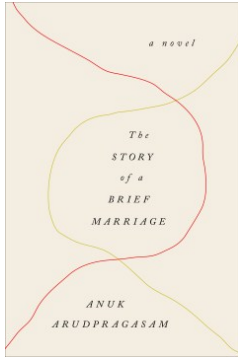
The Posthumous Memoirs of Brás Cubas is written as an autobiography, a chronicle of the erotic misadventures of its narrator, Brás Cubas--who happens to be dead. In pursuit of love and progeny, Cubas rejects the women who want him and aspires to the ones who reject him. In the end, he dies unloved and without heirs, yet he somehow manages to turn this bitter pill into a victory of sorts. What makes *Memoirs* stand up 100 years after the book was written is Machado's biting humor, brilliant prose, and profound understanding of all the vagaries of human behavior.



The president's gardens

by Musin Raml

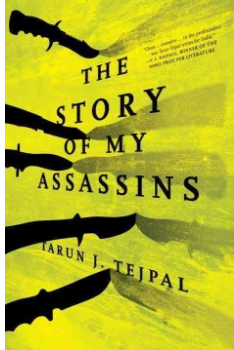
When the severed head of his son is found, Ibrahim the Fated searches for answers to why this happened, from the battlefields of the Gulf War to what lies behind the locked gates of the president's gardens.



The story of a brief marriage

by Anuk Arudpragasam

Set on a single day towards the end of the Sri Lankan Civil War, a newlywed couple tries to balance love and intimacy in an evacuee camp which is constantly being bombarded by enemy shells.

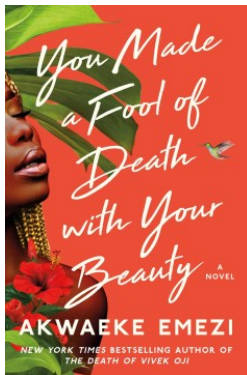


The story of my assassins

by Tarun J. Tejpal

Based on actual events, The Story of My Assassins tells the story of a journalist who learns that the police have captured five hitmen on their way to kill him. Landing like a bombshell on his comfortable life, just as he's started a steamy affair with a brilliant woman, the news prompts him to launch an urgent investigation into the lives of his aspiring murderers--a ragtag group of street thugs and village waifs--and their mastermind. Who wanted him dead, and why? But the investigation forces him to reexamine his own life, too--to confront his own notion of himself, his job, and his treatment of the women in his life, as well as his own complex feelings about the country that crafted his would-be killers.

Also by Emezi Akwaeke



You made a fool of death with your beauty : a novel

by Akwaeke Emezi

Learning how to feel joy while healing from loss, Feyi Adekola starts dating the perfect guy, but discovers she has feelings for someone else who is off limits and must decide just how far she is willing to go for a second chance at love.



Content warning: everything / : Everything

by Akwaeke Emezi

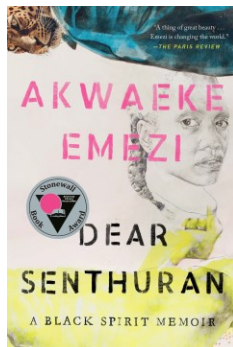
Collection of poems by Akwaeke Emezi.



Bitter

by Akwaeke Emezi

After a childhood in foster care, Bitter is thrilled to have been chosen to attend Eucalyptus, a special school where she can focus on her painting surrounded by other creative teens. But outside this haven, the streets are filled with protests against the deep injustices that grip the city of Lucille. Bitter's instinct is to stay safe within the walls of Eucalyptus but her friends aren't willing to settle for a world that's so far away from what they deserve. Pulled between old friendships, her artistic passion, and a new romance, Bitter isn't sure where she belongs--in the studio or in the streets. And if she does find a way to help the revolution while being true to who she is, she must also ask: at what cost?



Dear Senthuran : a Black spirit memoir

by Akwaeke Emezi

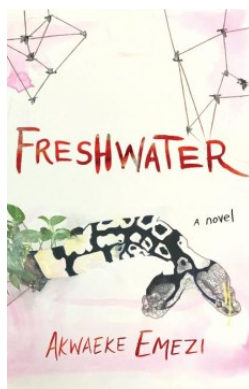
The New York Times-bestselling author presents a memoir of their journey through a challenging path of resistance towards success as a writer through candid and revealing correspondence with friends, lovers and family.



Pet

by Akwaeke Emezi

In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created, a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster



Freshwater

by Akwaeke Emezi

Traces the experiences of a deeply troubled young woman who alarms her devout Nigerian family as she succumbs to multiple personality disorder and begins to display increasingly dark and dangerous traits in accordance with her fractured personalities.

