



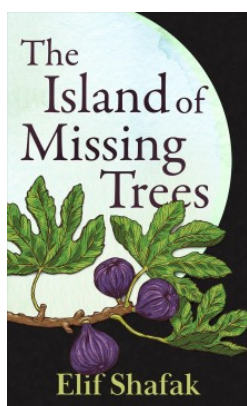
Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

Readalikes for *Infinite Country*

Dundee Library Book Club, September 2022

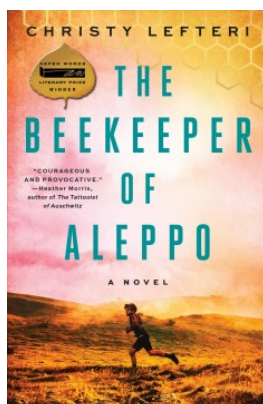
Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



The Island of Missing Trees

by Elif Shafak

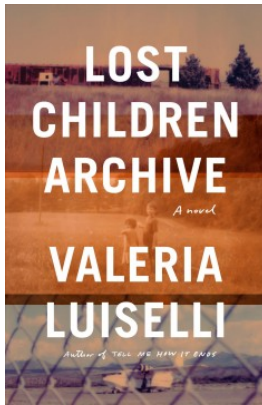
Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, meet at a taverna on the island they both call home. In the taverna, hidden beneath garlands of garlic, chili peppers and creeping honeysuckle, Kostas and Defne grow in their forbidden love for each other. A fig tree stretches through a cavity in the roof, and this tree bears witness to their hushed, happy meetings and eventually, to their silent, surreptitious departures. The tree is there when war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to ashes and rubble, and when the teenagers vanish. Decades later, Kostas returns. He is a botanist looking for native species, but really, he's searching for lost love. Years later a *Ficus carica* grows in the back garden of a house in London where Ada Kazantzakis lives. This tree is her only connection to an island she has never visited--- her only connection to her family's troubled history and her complex identity as she seeks to untangle years of secrets to find her place in the world.



The Beekeeper of Aleppo

by Christy Lefteri

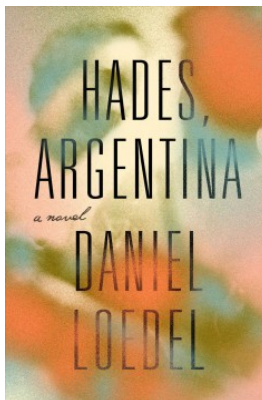
Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo--until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. But what Afra has seen is so terrible she has gone blind, and so they must embark on a perilous journey through Turkey and Greece towards an uncertain future in Britain. As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss, but dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls. Above all, they must journey to find each other again.



Lost Children Archive

by Valeria Luiselli

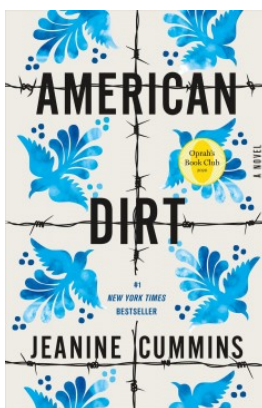
A mother and father set out with their kids from New York to Arizona. In their used Volvo--and with their ten-year-old son trying out his new Polaroid camera--the family is heading for the Apacheria: the region the Apaches once called home, and where the ghosts of Geronimo and Cochise might still linger. The father, a sound documentarist, hopes to gather an "inventory of echoes" from this historic, mythic place. The mother, a radio journalist, becomes consumed by the news she hears on the car radio, about the thousands of children trying to reach America but getting stranded at the southern border, held in detention centers, or being sent back to their homelands, to an unknown fate. But as the family drives farther west--through Virginia to Tennessee, across Oklahoma and Texas--we sense they are on the brink of a crisis of their own. A fissure is growing between the parents, one the children can feel beneath their feet. They are led, inexorably, to a grand, unforgettable adventure--both in the harsh desert landscape and within the chambers of their own imaginations.



Hades, Argentina

by Daniel Loedel

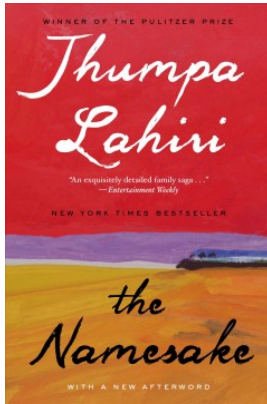
A medical student in Buenos Aires must decide how far he's willing to go for his childhood crush and the group of insurgents she's joined as more and more people like her are disappeared by an oppressive military junta.



American Dirt

by Jeanine Cummins

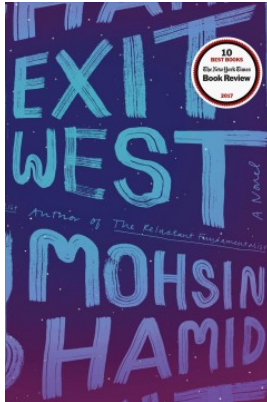
Selling two favorite books to an unexpectedly erudite drug-cartel boss, a bookstore manager is forced to flee Mexico in the wake of her journalist husbands tell-all profile and finds her family among thousands of migrants seeking hope in America.



The Namesake

by Jhumpa Lahiri

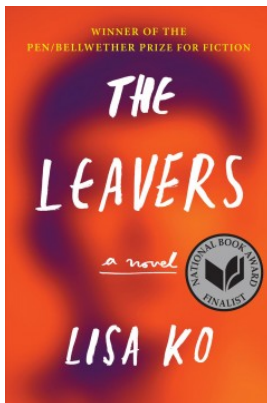
Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world—conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. In *The Namesake*, the Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri brilliantly illuminates the immigrant experience and the tangled ties between generations.



Exit West

by Mohsin Hamid

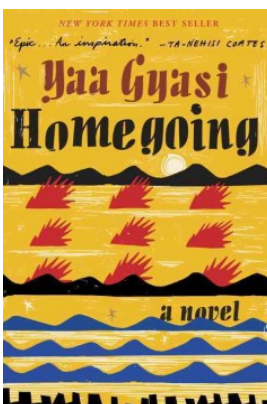
The internationally best-selling author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* presents the story of two young lovers whose furtive affair is shaped by local unrest on the eve of a civil war that erupts in a cataclysmic bombing attack, forcing them to abandon their previous home and lives.



The Leavers

by Lisa Ko

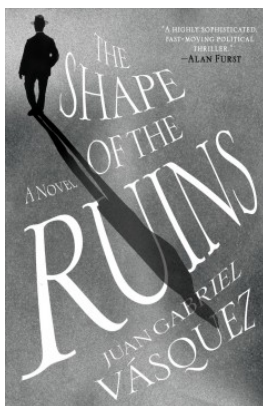
An award-winning debut novel follows the experiences of a Chinese youth who when his undocumented worker mother fails to return home is adopted by a family that attempts to make him over as an American teen while he struggles to reconcile his new life with memories of the family he left behind.



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 Shape of the Ruins

by Juan Gabriel Vásquez

A man who was arrested for attempting to steal a suit belonging to a murdered politician from a Columbian museum sets of a series of public fixations on conspiracy theories, assassinations, and the country's historical secrets.

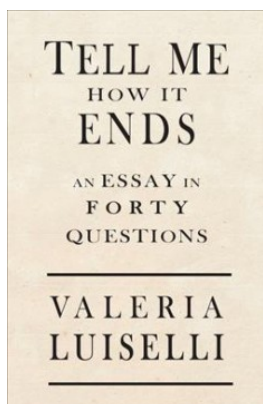
Books at other libraries in our consortium



The Good Immigrant: 26 Writers Reflect on America

by Nikesh Shukla

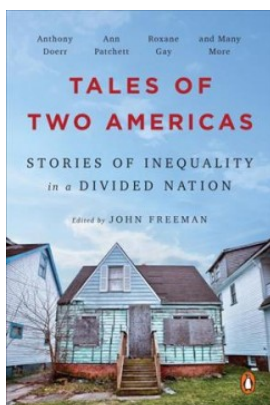
A U.S. follow-up to the best-selling U.K. edition collects urgent essays by first- and second-generation immigrant writers on the realities of immigration, multiculturalism and marginalization in today's increasingly divided America. 25,000 first printing.



Tell Me How it Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions

by Valeria Luiselli

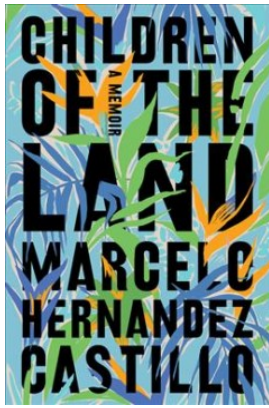
"Structured around the forty questions Luiselli translates and asks undocumented Latin-American children facing deportation, Tell Me How It Ends (an expansion of her 2016 Freeman's essay of the same name) humanizes these young migrants and highlights the contradiction of the idea of America as a fiction for immigrants with the reality of racism and fear--both here and back home"



Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation

by John Freeman (featuring essay by Patricia Engel)

Collects thirty-six stories, from such writers as Rebecca Solnit, Hector Tobar, Joyce Carol Oates, and Edwidge Danticat, that examine life in a deeply divided America.

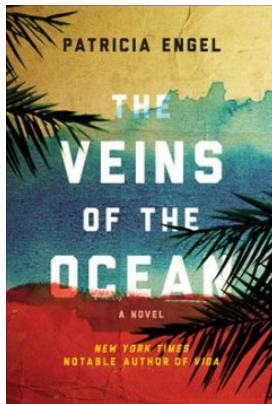


Children of the Land

by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo

An award-winning poet chronicles his experiences of growing up undocumented in the United States, describing how his family and his attempt to establish an adult life were heartbreakingly complicated by racist policies.

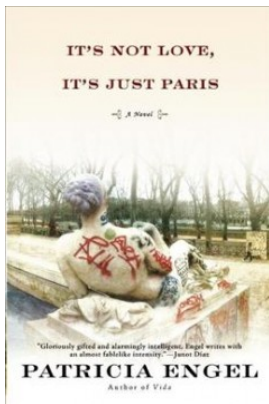
Also by Patricia Engel



The Veins of the Ocean

by Patricia Engel

Blaming herself for the horrifying crime that has landed her brother on death row, Reina moves to a sleepy Florida Keys community, where, through a friendship with an exiled Cuban, she gains understanding about her own connection to the life-giving and destructive forces of the ocean.



It's Not Love, It's Just Paris

by Patricia Engel

Studying for a year in Paris away from her Colombian immigrant family's business in America, Lita del Cielo falls in love with the ailing son of a notorious right-wing politician and struggles to choose between staying with him in France or returning home to fulfill her family's dreams.



Vida

by Patricia Engel

Follows a single narrator, Sabina, as she navigates her shifting identity as a daughter of the Colombian diaspora and struggles to find her place within and beyond the net of her strong and protective, yet embattled, family.