



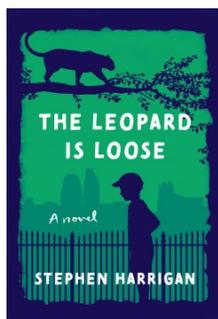
Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

Readalikes for *West with Giraffes*

Dundee Library Book Club, August 2024

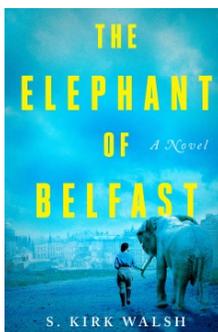
Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



The leopard is loose

by Stephen Harrigan

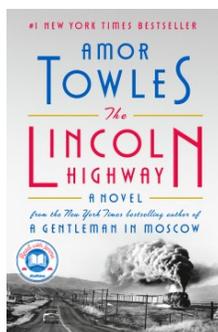
In 1952, when a leopard escapes from the Oklahoma City Zoo, the imagined fears of Grady McClarty, an ever-watchful but bewildered 5-year-old boy, turn into real-world terrors, in this moving portrait of a boy's struggle to find his place in the world and confront what scares him most.



The elephant of Belfast : a novel

by S. Kirk Walsh

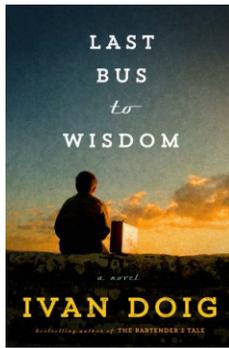
Inspired by a largely forgotten chapter of World War II, and highlighting the indelible, singular bond between mankind and animals during times of crisis, this moving story follows 21-year-old zookeeper Hettie Quin as she is compelled to protect an orphaned elephant through the German blitz of Belfast.



The Lincoln highway

by Amor Towles

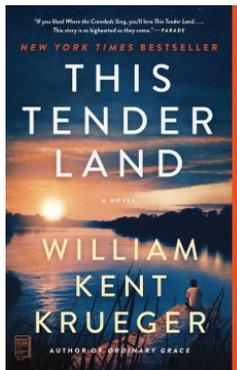
In June of 1954, 18-year-old Emmett Watson, released after serving 15 months for involuntary manslaughter, discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car and have hatched a different plan for Emmett's future.



Last bus to wisdom : a novel

by Ivan Doig

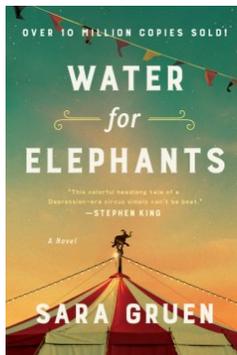
Rejected by his domineering great aunt during the summer of 1951, imaginative 11-year-old Donal travels back to his ailing grandmother's home accompanied by his German great uncle while experiencing haphazard adventures along the way.



This tender land : a novel

by William Kent Krueger

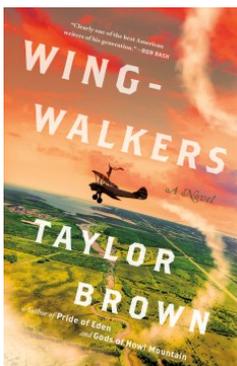
Fleeing the Depression-era school for Native American children who have been taken from their parents, four orphans share a life-changing journey marked by struggling farmers, faith healers, and lost souls



Water for elephants : a novel

by Sara Gruen

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

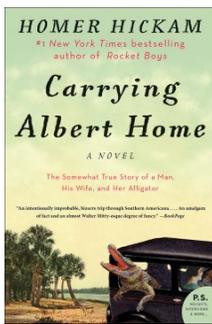


Wingwalkers

by Taylor Brown

Part epic adventure, part love story, this novel intricately weaves together the adventures of a vagabond couple who survive the Great Depression by performing death-defying aerial stunts from town to town, with the life of the author (and thwarted fighter pilot) William Faulkner.

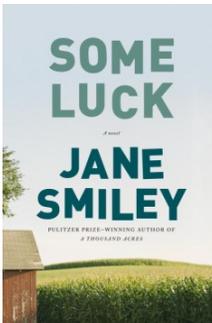
Books at other libraries in our consortium



Carrying Albert home : the somewhat true story of a man, his wife, and her alligator

by Homer H. Hickam

The New York Times best-selling author of *Rocket Boys* reimagines the story of his parents, who struggle to care for and then return home a pet alligator given to them by his mother's former paramour, dancer Buddy Ebsen.

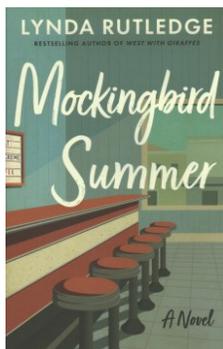


Some luck

by Jane Smiley

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Thousand Acres* follows the triumphs and tragedies of a farm family from post-World War I America through the early 1950s. Reading group guide.

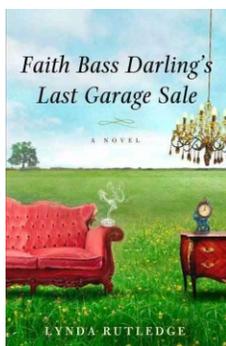
Also by Lynda Rutledge



Mockingbird summer : a novel

by Lynda Rutledge

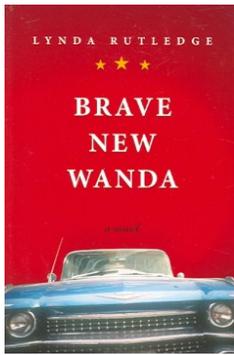
When her family hires a Haitian housekeep who brings her daughter, America, along with her, 13-year-old Corky Corcoran, in 1964 Texas, befriends America and asks her to play with her girls' softball team which, crossing the color line and setting off a firestorm, brings big changes that will last a lifetime.



Faith Bass Darling's last garage sale

by Lynda Rutledge

A debut novel set in the American South explores themes of second chances and follows the heyday that ensues when a wealthy and reclusive woman holds a garage sale on the last day of the millennium, sparking curiosity and protectiveness throughout her Texas community.



Brave new Wanda : a novel

by Lynda Rutledge

Wanda Louise Ledbetter--thirteen, white trash, orphaned, mad, and too smart for her own good--is eyeballing every man leaving the doctors' entrance of the big hospital in Dallas. Perched on her mama's rusted-out Cadillac, she's been there all afternoon--ever since her stepfather, Harley, drunk and abusive after her mother's funeral, yelled out the secret nobody was ever supposed to Wanda's daddy wasn't her daddy, and not even her dead mama knew his name--because Wanda was made with donor sperm. So Wanda has grabbed her half-gone grandma and her half-dog Wild Thing and hit the road to find her "real" daddy. There's brave new trouble ahead, and Brave New Wanda is roaring toward it in her mama's junker Caddy