



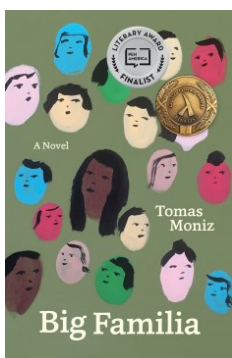
Fox River Valley Libraries

Dundee Library • Randall Oaks Library

Readalikes for *The Town of Babylon*

The Queer Book Club, September 2023

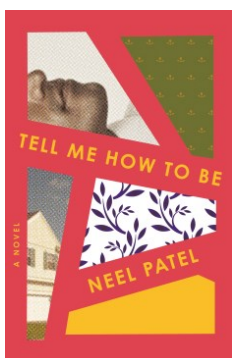
Books at the Dundee Library and/or Randall Oaks Library



Big Familia

by Tomas Moniz

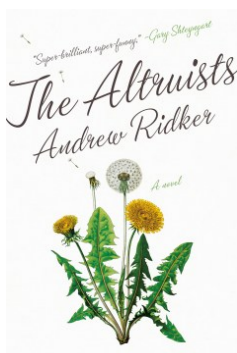
Big Familia follows Juan Gutiérrez, a self-employed single father, as he navigates a tumultuous year of inescapable change. His daughter, Stella, is on the verge of moving away to college; his lover, Jared, is pressing him for commitment; and his favorite watering hole--a ramshackle dive presided over by Bob the Bartender--is transforming into a karaoke hotspot. The story is set in a neighborhood that is also changing, gentrification inciting the ire of the established community. When his incarcerated father dies and Stella reveals she's pregnant, Juan is forced to examine the emotional bonds that both hold and hinder him. His encounters with various characters lead Juan to the realization that he himself must change to thrive.



Tell me how to be

by Neel Patel

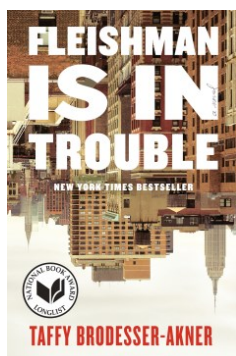
While packing up the family home, widow Renu embarks on an emotional affair with the man she almost married while her son slips back into old habits, forcing both of them to choose between the lives they left behind and the ones they've since created.



The altruists : a novel

by Andrew Ridker

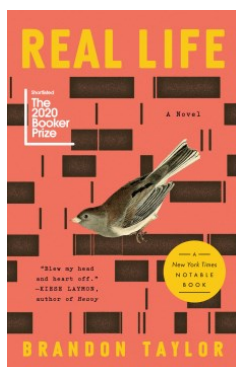
On the brink of losing the family home, a Midwestern college professor and widower reaches out to his estranged children under the guise of a reconciliation, only to unleash a maelstrom of age-old resentments. Includes one diagram.



Fleishman is in trouble : a novel

by Taffy Brodesser-Akner

Divorcing his hostile wife when he concludes he could find genuine happiness elsewhere, a doctor is astonished when his ex abruptly disappears, making him unable to move on without acknowledging painful truths about his marriage.

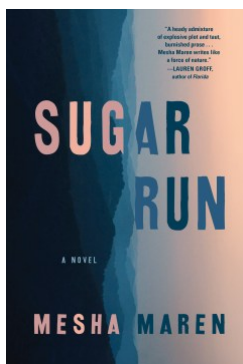


Real life

by Brandon Taylor

Keeping his head down at a lakeside Midwestern university where the culture is in sharp contrast to his Alabama upbringing, an introverted African-American biochem student endures unexpected encounters that bring his orientation and defenses into question.

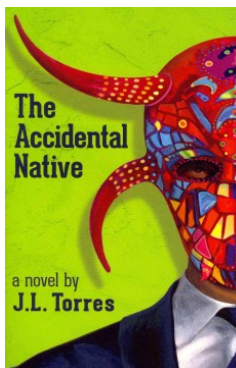
Books at other libraries in our consortium



Sugar run : a novel

by Mesha Maren

Released after serving 18 years for manslaughter, Jodi McCarty finds her efforts to track down a friend and move on with the woman she loves challenged by the insular values of their rural West Virginia community.

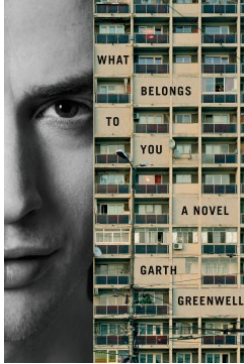


The accidental native : a novel

by José L. Torres-Padilla

When Rennie's parents die in a freak accident, he does what they would have wanted and buries them in Puerto Rico, their homeland. There, he's shocked to discover that the woman who raised him was not his biological mother. A high-powered attorney, his birth mother Julia is determined to reclaim the son she gave up many years ago. Adrift, with no family in New York and haunted by memories, Rennie is swayed by Julia's constant pleading that he move to the island. A teaching job at a college in Puerto Rico decides it, and he finds himself flying 'home' to a place and culture he knows only through his parents' recollections. Once

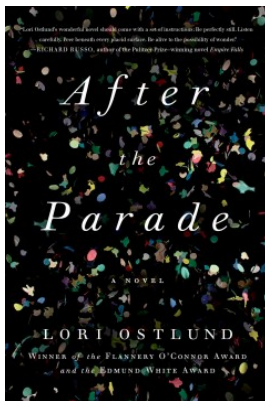
there, he must deal with Julia's strong-willed nature, a department chair not thrilled to have a Nuyorican on staff, squatters living in the house he inherited, students frequently on strike and a lover anxious to settle down. Most disturbing is the rumor that numerous faculty and staff are dying from cancer because the campus, a former U.S. military base, is full of buried munitions. Rennie soon finds himself working to expose the government's lies, though he risks losing his job, his home and even the woman he loves.



What belongs to you

by Garth Greenwell

When he drawn by hunger, loneliness and risk embarks on a sexual relationship with a young hustler, an American teacher discovers that desire has far-reaching consequences when the unnerving similarities between his past and the foreign country he finds himself in force him to grapple with his own fraught history and that of his lover, with whom he is obsessed.

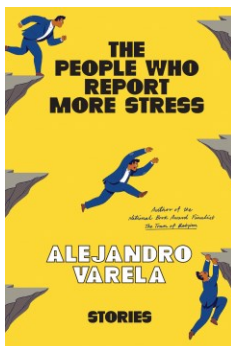


After the parade : a novel

by Lori Ostlund

An ESL teacher seeks closure from a rejection-marked childhood and his own questionable choices by exploring his relationships with fellow misfits in his youth.

Also by Alejandro Varela



The people who report more stress : stories

by Alejandro Varela

The People Who Report More Stress is a collection of connected stories examining issues of parenting, systemic and interpersonal racism, and class conflict in gentrified Brooklyn.