



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Everett Public Library launches 2024 Everett Reads: Into the Wilderness with author events and programs

EVERETT, WA – Everett Reads is a community-wide reading initiative designed to deepen an appreciation of reading and unite the Everett community through conversation. Under the theme of Into the Wilderness, this year's selection of authors and titles explore themes of climate change, nature, the environment, and survival.

Diane Cook will launch our Everett Reads programming with a discussion of her award-winning book "The New Wilderness" on Friday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Weyerhaeuser Room, Everett Station, 3201 Smith Avenue. This event is free, and tickets are not required. [Artisans PNW](#) will have copies of the book for purchase at the event, and Diane Cook will be available for book signing after her presentation.

[Diane Cook](#) is a critically acclaimed novelist and Booker Prize Finalist. Her book "The New Wilderness" is a Washington Post, NPR, and Buzzfeed 2020 Best Book of the Year and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Her story collection, "Man V. Nature", was a finalist for the Guardian First Book Award, the Believer Book Award, and the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction. She is a former producer for the radio program This American Life and was the recipient of a 2016 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The New Wilderness" is a wildly imaginative debut novel of a mother's battle to save her daughter in a world ravaged by climate change. Bea's five-year-old daughter, Agnes, is slowly wasting away, consumed by the smog and pollution of the overdeveloped metropolis that most of the population now calls home. If they stay in the city, Agnes will die. There is only one alternative: the Wilderness State, the last swath of untouched, protected land, where people have always been forbidden. Bea, Agnes, and eighteen others volunteer to live in the Wilderness State, guinea pigs in an experiment to see if humans can exist in nature without destroying it. The farther they get from civilization, the more their bond is tested in astonishing and heartbreaking ways.

Community members are encouraged to read "[The New Wilderness](#)"; copies are available to check out, and a limited number of giveaway copies are available at both library locations.

The library is presenting a variety of related programs under the theme “Into the Wilderness.” Find more information about Everett Reads: Into the Wilderness at epls.org/EverettReads.

This program and all other library events are free and open to the public. Call 425-257-8000 or visit www.epls.org/events for more information about these or other library programs.

The Everett Public Library was founded in 1894 by the Everett Woman's Book Club. The historic Main Library was built in 1934 by architect Carl Gould, and the Evergreen Branch opened in 1985. The library's two branches serve the residents of the City of Everett and nearby locales and host hundreds of programs for children and adults each year. We connect the community to resources and services that inform, educate, and entertain. For more information about the Everett Public Library, visit www.epls.org.

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