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AND MANITOBA

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INSIDE

New books by

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THOMAS
MORSE**



KC ADAMS

**WANDA
JOHN-
KEHEWIN**



TAMMI QUIN

YOU'LL ALSO FIND:

Cli-fi mystery questions our digital dependence, and survival amid decay

Remedies include returning to grief, and the love it grows from, for Winnipeg poet

Real-life pilgrimage to Burning Man amid grief, transformation comes to life in one-woman play

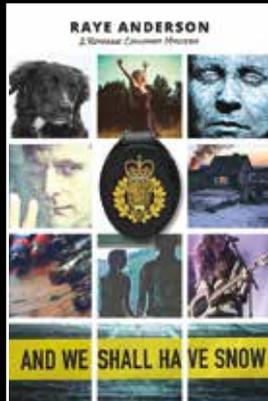
Doctor shares struggles of caring for his children, himself, and disrupts illness recovery tales

First book of fantasy quintet shares diversity in gender and species while honouring found family

Young adult tale starts in Saskatchewan, with a little cosmonaut dog and a NASA geologist

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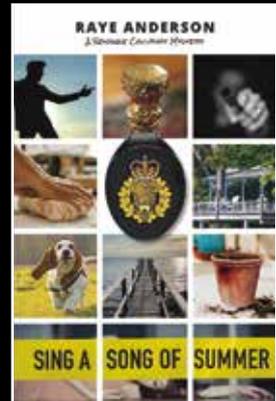
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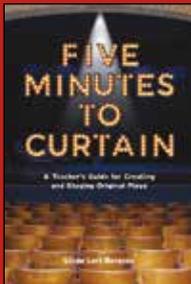
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Five Minutes to Curtain

A Teacher's Guide for Creating and Staging Original Plays

Linda Lori Burgess

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978-1990737-19-0, \$19.95



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Daniel Brooks

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The War Being Waged

Darla Contois

The War Being Waged is a poetic and unflinchingly truthful examination of what happens when patriotism and sovereignty collide. Three generations of Indigenous women try to connect the pieces of their lives after experiencing all the ways Canada has torn them apart.

978-1990737-18-3, \$15.95



Orphan Song

Sean Dixon

In 40,027 BCE, a grief-stricken Homo sapiens couple adopts a Neanderthal child. But language separates parents and child—and how do we love when we can't communicate? An examination of how the bonds of family are truly formed.

978-1990737-17-6, \$15.95



The Whole Animal

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On the Cover: Michel Vrana.
Digital collage, 2022, for the
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A powerful novel of ecological interconnectedness

Novel pokes at messiness of ecology, morality, questions ideas of damage in the natural world

by Margaret Goldik

THE BOOK OF RAIN

Thomas Wharton

Random House Canada-PRH

\$35.95 hc, 424 pages

ISBN: 978-1-039-00243-2

Available as an ebook and audiobook

In *The Book of Rain*, award-winning Edmonton-area author Thomas Wharton tells a riveting tale of the impact that human choices have on our world.

The novel's narrative is bookended by two events: in the first, fictional, event, a "feral" cloud briefly blocks telecommunications. The absence of birds is unremarked. The second, which ends the novel, is an event from our time, which Wharton says is "based on a real-life incident that happened in the United States a few years ago, where a July 4th fireworks extravaganza caused an astonishing number of bird deaths."

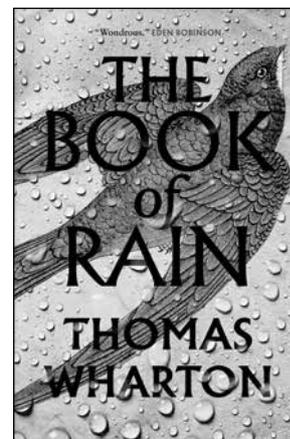
In between, *The Book of Rain* is an extraordinary weaving of characters and events in an all-too-plausible parallel world. While Alex and Amery and their parents are on the road to a new life in the East, they stop and stay in River Meadows, Alberta, where they witness the phenomenon known as "decoherences" or slippages of time and space caused by the extraction and processing of ghost ore, a new source of energy.



Thomas Wharton

Eventually River Meadows becomes what one character describes as "one endless, unpredictable, unstoppable decoherence," and the evacuated town is fenced off as the Park. Wharton explains, "The Park is based on real-world environmental catastrophe sites, but what I really wanted to suggest was that the Park *is* nature. It's the natural world as we've damaged it, and as we actually live in it. Nature is beauty and life-sustaining wonder, but it's also danger, contamination, radiation, and deep strangeness."

As an adult, Alex writes for the gaming world until he is summoned to find Amery, who has disappeared while saving wildlife in the Park. While Alex perceives the uncanniness of the Park, some of the most powerful experiences in *The Book of Rain*, written in Wharton's crystal clear prose, belong to Amery.



Claire, a River Meadow teen when Alex and Amery lived there, becomes a courier for those in the endangered species black market. Arriving at an island so environmentally damaged that visitors are required to wear a skin patch to adjust to the local water and air, she is faced with a choice that tests her moral centre and that will have an impact on the distant future.

Wharton says, "I want to suggest that our growing understanding of how the world really works these days forces us all to confront difficult ethical choices. Most novels are preoccupied with 'society' as if human relations exist in a bubble sealed off from the rest of nature. I wanted my novel to poke some holes in that bubble and let ecology in, in all its messy, scary, wondrous multiplicity."

Wharton is known for reaching beyond what most books attempt. He has written other celebrated novels (*Icefield*, *Salamander*), short stories, a picture book about a time-travelling moose, and a YA fantasy trilogy.

"Each book starts with me, a reader, looking for a particular book I'd like to read," he says, "and when I can't find it, I start writing it. I never know where that's going to take me, into adult fiction, or YA, or a children's book.

"That's a big part of the wonder and joy of writing, for me. Setting out into the unknown." 🌿

For Corinna Chong, short forms offer experimentation, space for ‘enigmatic child characters’

Collection includes CBC Short Story Prize winner amid themes of motherhood, disconnection

by Keith Cadieux

THE WHOLE ANIMAL

Corinna Chong
Arsenal Pulp Press
\$19.95 pb, 184 pages
ISBN: 978-1-55152-915-8
Available as an ebook

As the first full-length offering from Corinna Chong since her well-received debut novel *Belinda’s Rings* in 2013, *The Whole Animal*, her debut short story collection, has been a long time coming.

“The collection includes some stories that were previously published in literary magazines, and some that I’ve been working and reworking for many years. One story had its beginnings in an undergraduate creative writing class 14 years ago!” she shares.

Chong, currently based in British Columbia and born and raised in Calgary, is hard at work on a new novel set in the Canadian Badlands, but the short story form gave her an opportunity to play.

“What excites me most about writing short stories is how well the form lends itself to experimentation,” she says. “I usually begin a story with a single image or sentence, freely exploring its implications without a clear goal in mind, which often leads me in surprising directions that I hadn’t anticipated.”

As a result of moving in unpredictable directions, the stories cover a variety of topics and situations. The 2021 CBC Short Story Prize winner “Kids in Kindergarten” follows a woman who has suffered a miscarriage (seemingly not the first) and who struggles to keep her composure while reading to kids at the school where her friends’ children attend. What begins as a sombre reflection ends with just a flash of the narrator’s frustration and rage.



Corinna Chong

In “Butter Buns,” teenager Gavin has a hard time adjusting to changes in his mother, who has found a new interest in bodybuilding. In “Wolf-Boy Saturday,” Alma struggles to help a traumatized boy learn to speak, even as communication in her long-term relationship continues to fail. In both “Love/Cream/Heat” and “Kevin Bombardo,” the protagonists find themselves at a loss when their memories and perceptions of key people and events in their pasts are challenged.

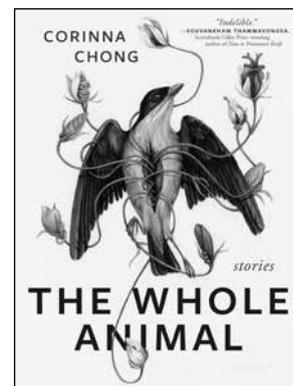
“There are recurring themes and tropes across the stories in this collection,” says Chong. “Weird kids, the messiness of motherhood, a disconnection between the body and the self, to name a few – but this wasn’t really an intentional choice.”

Children indeed play a pivotal role in many of the stories. Not just young kids of a certain age, but also adults in their continuing relationships to parental figures.

“I’m fascinated by enigmatic child characters,” Chong admits. “I think children are often vivid reflections of our own most deep-seated hopes and fears, perhaps because they can be so honest and unencumbered by social expectations. In this way they are great vehicles for forcing characters to confront their internal conflicts head-on.”

Composing short stories is not all that different from working on a novel, at least in one basic way. Chong says, “There’s a great analogy from E. L. Doctorow: *Writing is like driving at night in the fog. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way.*

“This is as true for me for novel writing as it is for story writing. The main difference, however, is that novel writing requires hitting key checkpoints along the way.”



Complicated desire for family foregrounds tale set in early 1900s Mennonite town

Seed for Sarah Klassen's latest work came from a story told by her mother

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

THE RUSSIAN DAUGHTER

Sarah Klassen
 CMU Press
 \$22.00 pb, 256 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-987986-11-2



Sarah Klassen

in, Klassen made sure they didn't take over the novel.

She says, "Although my story was a domestic one, I obviously could not ignore

the political events of that place and time: the Russian Revolution, World War I, the assassination of the Romanovs, and anarchy." Instead, Klassen opted to use these circumstances to enhance her characters' experiences.

Klassen also decided to resist sticking to the basic story she had heard from her mother and to push it in new directions. For example, she had originally focused on Amalia as the main character, but then shifted it to Sofia, the adopted daughter.

"I've invested greatly in Sofia, whose loneliness, disappointments, anger, and actions were a strong focus of my writing," says Klassen. As well, she appreciates the character of Amalia who must discover that happiness and love don't come automatically with a child and that she is not a perfect mother.

At 90 years of age, Klassen knows that older writers have much to offer, including language and writing skills, wisdom, and life experiences.

"These resources, the richness of language, and years of thoughtful observation are good grounding for them to continue writing," she says.

"And there's no need to hurry." 🌿

The creative fodder for Winnipeg author Sarah Klassen's second novel, *The Russian Daughter*, came from a story told by her mother about a childless couple who made two attempts at adoption, both ending sadly.

The idea to use this story occurred to Klassen just after publishing her first novel, *The Wittenbergs*, eight years earlier.

"The story about the couple stayed with me," she states. "As well, its dramatic possibilities made me think that I had a strong framework for my story and writing it wouldn't be difficult."

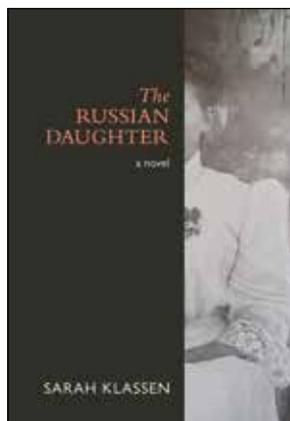
An accomplished poet and fiction writer, Klassen has penned eight collections of poetry and two works of short fiction, in addition to the two novels. Many of her books have won prizes, including the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for poetry and a High Plains Book Award for fiction. *The Russian Daughter* is her first historical novel.

Set in a Mennonite village in what is now Ukraine, the plot unfolds amid the turmoil of Czarist rule and the Russian Revolution. At the outset,

prosperous young farmer Isaak Albrecht and his wife Amalia are childless, and when they hear of an opportunity to adopt a baby girl in Kharkov, they do, despite her being Russian. They later discover that Sofia, their adopted daughter, has health issues.

Klassen thought, given the specific context of the novel, *The Russian Daughter* would appeal to most Mennonite readers with an interest in history. However, she says, "I intended it for a wide audience and hoped to create characters and events to draw readers in."

Keeping the time and place – south Russia in the early 1900s – and the basic dilemma of her mother's story made sense to Klassen. "My idea was to write about the human desire for children and family and the complications that might frustrate such desires," she says. And while the political events of the time certainly draw readers



GWEN MACDONALD

Cli-fi mystery questions our digital dependence, and survival amid decay

Secrets of Jarrow first in an illustrated trilogy by Bill Slavin

by David Jón Fuller

SECRETS OF JARROW

Bill Slavin

Renegade Arts Entertainment

\$21.99 pb, 128 pages

ISBN: 978-1-9897542-6-9

Available as an ebook

As humanity faces climate change, we'll certainly need the resources of the information age to survive it. But what if those resources weren't available? What if electronic records were as fragmented and incomprehensible to future generations as hieroglyphics?

Award-winning Ontario writer-artist Bill Slavin explores these questions in his new graphic novel, *Secrets of Jarrow*.

In the early 22nd century, tech scavenger Mordecai Crow barely escapes a group of bandits by reaching Jarrow, a castle-like community wealthy in food. Rare in a world ravaged by climate change, it's one of the mysteries Crow tries to unravel as he works with Jarrow's archivists.

Unfortunately for Crow – and society – most digital information we take for granted has been lost. “I think we are destined to become the most documented, and least remembered, generation to inhabit the Earth in a long time,” Slavin says.

Crow helps restore old devices and navigate ancient file formats to uncover information. Meanwhile, the murder of one of Jarrow's food experts – central to its dominance of the local economy – is pinned on Crow. How and why this happened are two questions he must solve before the real culprit kills him too.

Slavin says part of the inspiration for a post-digital world came from a real-life power outage he experienced. Though he saw people pulling together, he says, “I honestly think we would go tribal pretty fast, but I also think like-minded



Bill Slavin

people would find ways to survive and continue in small groups, like the cloistered inhabitants of Jarrow.”

Better known as a book illustrator, Slavin is no stranger to graphic novels, having written the Elephants Never Forget series for children, about a circus elephant Otto's adventures in the city. He also drew one-page *Great Moments in Science* strips for *Know Magazine*.

Jarrow, however, the first of a trilogy about Crow's search for his birth family, presented different challenges.

“Whereas Otto was more of a comedic romp, *Secrets of Jarrow*, written for an adult audience, probably has a bit more meat on its bones,” says Slavin. “The future world of the Crow books gives my imagination free rein as I imagine a world in decay. That suits my own temperament as, visually, I love to draw old buildings and ruins and things that are about to fall down.”

Combining cli-fi with a whodunnit allowed him to explore questions of technology dependency and climate change. “I really liked the idea of trying to tell Crow's story in the context of a mystery,” he says.



“In a large part, it provided me with the framework to introduce Crow and his own story while moving the narrative forward. But what has happened to the world that he inhabits is an important part of the story too, and I found that the archives of Jarrow provided a great venue for him to dig up the past.”

Does Slavin think humanity is doomed? Not necessarily. “At the end of the day, human-caused climate change is a natural

phenomenon as much as a meteor hitting the Earth,” he says. “We just happen to be the meteor.”

“But I believe that as humans our unwillingness to change is only matched by our capacity to adapt to crisis. So I put my hope in that.”

MORE FICTION

SHORT FICTION

END TIMES

Michelle Syba

The seven stories in this collection offer nuanced and complex portrayals of characters entangled in evangelical culture and of the non-believers who interact with them. Explorations of relationships – mother and son, husband and wife, and everyday social connections – reveal the mysteries at the heart of humanity. (Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-128-6)

EXIT STRATEGIES

Paul Cresey

Framed as a journalist's investigation into choices of life and death, the 18 stories in this debut collection range in tone from the humorous to the heartbreaking, as characters such as convenience store owners, Holocaust survivors, a dealer in black market goods, and a prisoner explore restlessness, freedom, and mortality. (Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-131-6)

HOME BODIES

Amy LeBlanc

These dark stories portray haunted bodies, haunted houses, and haunted relationships, excavating the effects of chronic illness, eating disorders, a pandemic, and more to show how one can never truly feel at home. (Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains, \$22.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-101-6)

LIFE BEYOND US: AN ORIGINAL ANTHOLOGY OF SF STORIES AND SCIENCE ESSAYS

Edited by Julie Nováková, Lucas K. Law, and Susan Forest

Each of the 27 speculative short stories in this collection about life beyond Earth and what it might be like – stories by international authors including Canadians such as Julie E. Czerneda and Premee Mohamed – is followed by a professional essay illuminating the scientific underpinnings of the story and providing cutting-edge knowledge about exploration for life in the universe. (Laksa Media Groups, 582 pages, \$48.00 hc, ISBN: 978-2-988140-47-6; \$34.00 pb, ISBN: 978-1-988140-48-3; available as ebook)

OUR LADY OF MILE END

Sarah Gilbert

This collection of interconnected stories forms a neighbourhood of girls and women, tenants and landlords, friends and strangers, whose lives – complete with personal challenges and unexpected intimacies – overlap against a backdrop of renoviction threats and walking tours. (Anvil Press, \$19.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-214-3)

PLACES LIKE THESE

Lauren Carter

The places range from Ecuador to small-town Ontario and northern Manitoba in these complex and compelling stories of characters – high schoolers, married couples, young adults finding their way – in relationships evolving and devolving, who are dealing



NEW!

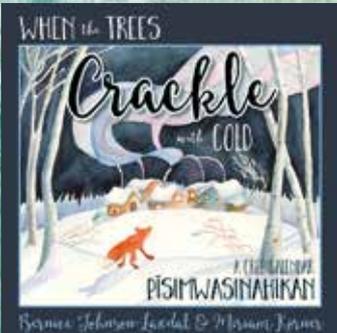
All books contain a Cree pronunciation guide and glossary!

Seagull Island—kiyāsko-miniscikos
Myles Charles & Miriam Körner

Little Luke watches ducks, pelicans and cormorants on the way to Seagull Island, where the family collects eggs for lunch and to share. A story of traditional Woodland Cree life in modern times.

978-1-77869-010-5
\$22.95 | 9 x 9 | Hard Cover | 24 pp

STORIES of the SIX SEASONS



When the Trees Crackle with Cold
Bernice Johnson-Laxdal & Miriam Körner

The rhythm of the words echoes the rhythm of the land in this picture book about the traditional Cree moon calendar.

978-1-927756-93-5
\$14.95 | 9 x 9 | Soft Cover | 32 pp

orders@ynwp.ca



When We Had Sled Dogs
Ida Tremblay & Miriam Körner

Told in English with Woodland Cree words and phrases, the story follows the seasonal cycle of trapline life when dog teams were part of the traditional way of life in Northern Saskatchewan.

978-1-988783-39-0
\$22.95 | 9 x 9 | Hard Cover | 32 pp

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CREATIVE SASKATCHEWAN



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YOUTH NARRATIVE WRITING PUBLICATIONS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

with grief, regret, friendship, and betrayal. (Book*hug Press, \$23.00 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77166-85-7, available as ebook)

A SAFE GIRL TO LOVE

Casey Plett

Plett's debut collection of stories – 11 stories that feature young trans women coming of age in settings that range from a rural Mennonite town to a hipster gay bar in Brooklyn – is now available in a new edition that includes an afterword by the author.

(Arsenal Pulp Press, \$21.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-913-4, available as ebook)

SURVIVORS OF THE HIVE

Jason Heroux

A newly minted private investigator sets out to find missing silence, a researcher investigates a small town

where people are inexplicably and inappropriately saying “no,” and a high school poetry contest may be linked to the end of the world. With more than a touch of the surreal, while still being all too relatable, the four stories in this collection explore loss, grief, and silence on personal and societal levels.

(Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-98927-486-6)

TELL ME PLEASANT THINGS ABOUT IMMORTALITY

Lindsay Wong

Very little is pleasant in the (after)lives of the ghosts, zombies, and demons that join the living but haunted people in this collection.

Blending horror, mythology, and the supernatural, this book fearlessly examines how the past can devour,

and how love and tragedy make even the most grotesque and cantankerous creatures human. (Penguin Canada-PRH, \$32.95 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-4236-4, available as ebook and audiobook)

NOVELS

BACK TO THE GARDEN

Megan Wykes

Set in Toronto in the summer of 1971, this funny and heartbreaking novel is about four strangers who try out a new psychological treatment: group therapy. When the participants connect outside of the sessions in unforeseen and catastrophic ways, events spiral out of control.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-97-5)

Coq

Ali Bryan

This fun dramedy takes readers back into the world of *Rooster's* Claudia and her wacky family and friends. When Claudia's father remarries 10 years after the death of Claudia's mother, Claudia and her family realize they haven't properly processed their decade-old loss, so they take a memorial trip to Paris, which doesn't quite bring them the closure they are looking for.

(Freehand Books, \$23.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-125-5)

EAST GRAND LAKE

Tim Ryan

This humorous and compassionate novel in 16 stories tells of a single day at the lake in the summer of 1972 from the perspectives of multiple characters from three generations of the Murphy

family, who grapple with grief, betrayal, aging, mental illness, and all the stories family members share. (University of Calgary Press, \$24.99 pb, 188 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-445-8, available as ebook)

ELEMENTAL EVE

Barbara Kahan

With narratives that weave through time and place, this intriguing novel follows Eve Markovich, who lived over a century and left a legacy of art, and her best friend Solloway, who has promised to find the missing sister of Evie Martens, Eve's great-granddaughter. Evie has come to Solloway for stories of the artist/grandmother she adores and also receives stories of ancestors going back to Biblical Eve.

(Wild Sage Press, \$29.95 pb, 380 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9881229-9-4)

THE FATHER OF RAIN

Martin West

Overnight, a father disappears from his family home. A few months later, so does the mother. Reporters descend, social workers, doctors, and concerned relatives visit, and the police investigations go on and on. Eventually, the 17-year-old son, who is the narrator, does some investigating of his own to find out who his parents really were.

(Anvil Press, \$22.95 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-210-5)

THE GLINT OF LIGHT

Clarence Major

The narrator of this novel, Mark Smith, is an environmental scientist of mixed race, dealing with the death of his mother, who had raised him and his

Thistledown Press

Spring 2023

Read what we sow.
www.thistledownpress.com

a beautiful rebellion
rita bouvier

GORDIE'S SKATE
BILL WAISER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY LEANNE FRANKSON

LEAVING WISDOM
SHARON BUTALA

twin sister single-handedly since their father died when the twins were 10. This story of Mark's life – his career and relationships – is told against the backdrop of climate change and the unease and random violence that has gripped U.S. life in recent years.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-99-9)

I (ATHENA)

Ruth DyckFehderau

As a child, Athena was misdiagnosed as “profoundly retarded” when in fact she lost her hearing due to a fever. After being institutionalized for over 30 years, she is now free to live her life. This funny and tough novel tells how she learns to integrate with society, tries to understand her past, and maintains a relationship with a man from the institution.

(NeWest Press, \$23.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-067-2, available as ebook)

IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY

Keith Maillard

Set on a U.S. college campus in 1964, this powerful novel explores gender nonconformity and the reach of history through the story of four young people working to make sense of the rapidly changing cultural and ideological climate, while consumed by their own personal dramas.

(Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-141-5)

LEAVING WISDOM

Sharon Butala

Judith, a just-retired social worker and mother of four daughters, suffers a debilitating concussion and leaves Calgary to return to Wisdom, Saskatchewan, near the farm where she grew up. There she uncovers family secrets and maybe even a crime next door, but most importantly, she awakens to the complex shadows left by the Second World War and the Holocaust.

(ThistleDown Press, \$24.95 pb, 282 pages, ISBN: 978-177187-236-2)

LIVINGSKY

Anthony Bidulka

For the first time since his award-winning Russell Quant novels, Bidulka has a new

mystery series, featuring Merry Bell, who returns to Livingsky, Saskatchewan, to start her own PI business. Her first case involves a dodgy client, the murder of the surgeon who performed her gender-affirming surgery, and more than one mysterious stranger.

(Stonehouse Publishing, \$22.00 pb, 276 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988754-47-5)

MERCY GENE: THE MAN-MADE MAKING OF A MAD WOMAN

JD Derbyshire

This genre-bending debut work of autofiction by the acclaimed playwright and comedian JD Derbyshire is a humorous and sometimes brutal look at queerness, gender confusion, institutionalization, addiction, and abuse, told in short bursts of erratic recollections, daydreams, poetry, and lists.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$22.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-294-8, available as ebook)

ROSE ADDAMS

Margie Taylor

Rose's husband announces his early retirement out of the blue, her 36-year-old daughter has decided to quit both her fiancé and her PhD program and move back home, and then Rose reconnects with Ryan, the young man soliciting handouts outside of the grocery store, who was a member of their family for a year when he was young and his mother abandoned him. Nothing is simple heading into Rose's third act of life.

(NeWest Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-069-6, available as ebook)

SAMURAI BLUEGRASS

Craig Terslon

This magical tale tells of a samurai lost in time. Gordo Clement remembers arriving in a forest in Toronto in 1984, but he doesn't understand how he got there from his earlier life in 12th-century feudal Japan. He befriends a young artist/single mother and tells her his story, hoping that will lead to a deeper understanding. But a man pretending to be his doctor and threatening to have him committed to an institution complicates Gordo's situation.

(Literary Wanderlust, \$26.95 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-956615-22-7, available as ebook)

SHADOW LIFE

Michael Dexter

While recovering from a stressful session of jury duty, Matthew Rice loses his wallet in a boating accident. When he tries to replace his birth certificate, he discovers his birth mother was not the woman who raised him. His search for all he can find about this trail-blazing journalist takes him to Australia, Boston, and Dublin, and into the pages of her diary.

(Cormorant Books, \$24.99 pb, 242 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-667-6, available as ebook)

SISTERS OF THE NORTH: A MODERN RETELLING OF SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Emily Kirkham

This retelling of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, set in a small northern British Columbia oil town, follows Ellie Dashwood, a welder in the oil fields, and her sister Valerie, a trained ballet dancer who works in a local strip club, as they overcome various challenges after their father dies suddenly.

(Dragon Hill Publishing, \$21.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-896124-80-3)

SIX OSTRICHES, A DR. BANNERMAN VET MYSTERY

Philipp Schott

The amiable, if a bit obsessive, vet detective Peter Bannerman is back, and this time the hint of a mystery is an Icelandic pendant of Thor's hammer, found in the first stomach of an ostrich. Peter suspects there is a connection between this and a series of animal mutilations and an online group of white supremacists, and so, with his champion sniffer dog, Pippin, he investigates.

(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 234 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-725-0, available as ebook)

SLEEPERS AND TIES

Gail Kirkpatrick

Grieving museum curator Margaret returns to her childhood home in Saskatchewan to leave behind her sister's ashes and to find that Shirley has left her eight million dollars and a request to revive an abandoned railway line. Margaret's resulting decisions will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

forever change a landscape, her career, her marriage, her friendships, and her own legacy.

(Now or Never Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 220 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989689-46-2)

SUNSETTER

Curtis LeBlanc

This literary thriller opens on the first evening of the Sunsetter rodeo with the sudden deaths of two young men, leaving behind Dallan, the best friend of one, and Hannah, who was about to start a new life with the other. The two channel their grief and confusion into uncovering the truth about the small Prairie town of Perron, a town – with its discontented youth and corrupt police force – perfectly suited for a flourishing drug trade.

(ECW Press, \$22.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-690-1, available as ebook)

THAT SUMMER IN BERLIN

Lecia Cornwall

It's the summer of 1936, and Viviane is in Berlin with her sister for the Olympics, snapping photographs of all of the sights. However, her true purpose, in collaboration with a daring journalist, is to provide the evidence needed to expose the Nazi's secret plans for the Second World War.

(Berkeley-PRH, \$23.99 pb, 464 pages, ISBN: 978-0-593-19794-3, available as ebook and audiobook)

THE THREE HEIRS

Monique Desrosiers

In this historical mystery, three people – Emily Thordeaux, Lilith Breat, and Graham Lestor – are invited to Philadelphia to the reading of a will in which they are named as beneficiaries. None of them knows of any connection to the dead woman or to each other, but they are curious to discover why the deceased has brought them together.

(Wood Dragon Books, 308 pages, \$24.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-990863-20-2; \$19.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-990863-21-9, available as ebook)

THE WINTER KNIGHT

Jes Battis

By turns charming and poetic, action-packed and meditative, sexy and profound, this fabulously fun queer urban fantasy crosses a detective story with Arthurian legends reborn in Vancouver's academic world, a world where runes become computer code and queens are sessional university instructors. Hildie, the Valkyrie assigned to investigate the horrific killings of knights, and Wayne, known in previous lives as Sir Gawain, now an anxious, autistic first-year college student, lead the way in this exploration of how one can break free of the myths one is born into.

(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-720-5, available as ebook)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

ALBERTA COMICS: HOME

Edited by Shea Proulx, Alexander Finbow, and Emily Pomeroy

Alberta creators responded to the theme of home with a range of characters, from a robot to a leopard gecko to a young mother; settings from Calgary's Chinatown to a zombie-infested small town Byemore to a crashed starship; and stories that include quests, escapes, and reunions – presented in humorous, hopeful, haunting, and wise ways.

(Renegade Arts Entertainment, \$24.99 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9897541-6-0)

DANCING WITH WOODY

F. David Howell

Set in Winnipeg, this graphic novel for mature readers follows Yana, a young woman starting out on her own, navigating nightmares and/or mental illness, or is it the spirit of her Russian grandmother possessing her? And will the arrival of her grandfather's art supplies, including Woody, his wooden figure model that Yana played with as a child, help her or interfere with her achieving independence?

(Toonstalk World Press, 128 pages, \$35.00 pb, full-colour interior pages, ISBN: 978-1-7782256-1-1; \$25.00 pb, with b/w interior pages, ISBN: 978-1-7782256-0-4)

KING WARRIOR

Jay Bulckaert and Erika Nyssonen, illustrated by Lucas Green

Awale is working as a cab driver in Yellowknife to provide for his family in Somalia. To stay connected with his son, Afrah, he creates a magical epic world of Jaÿrikas, bringing the stories and diversity of the North to life so powerfully that when tragedy strikes and parallel worlds start to collide, Afrah knows he has to become the King Warrior.

(Renegade Arts Entertainment, \$19.99 pb, 76 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9897541-4-6)

TALES FROM PHANTOM CITY

Patrick Jenkins

Using eerie, textured, Escher-esque line art, Jenkins combines film noir with surrealism to tell a story of a magical cat-shaped pendant and the mysterious man who is after it, and how they connect with a detective and a variety of cityscapes and city dwellers.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-96-8)

VMT

William Simpson, colour art by Lovern Kindzierski

This unfiltered vampire story portrays the creatures in all of their bloody glory. The police think the blood-drained corpses they're finding across the city are ritual killings. Meanwhile, Sun, a young woman recently added to the local vampire population, targets the men she feels deserve it. The cops are after her, but so are her own kind.

(Renegade Arts Entertainment, \$19.99 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9889037-0-5)

With six takes on the apocalypse and meditations on anger, *Knife on Snow* is oddly hopeful

Alice Major's latest spans the globe and millennia, weaving together past, present, future

by Kyla Neufeld

KNIFE ON SNOW

Alice Major

Turnstone Press

\$18.00 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-768-0

Alice Major's new poetry collection, *Knife on Snow*, began with the mysterious appearance of a knife in the snow of her backyard.

"Somehow this ordinary, inexplicable object on the untrodden white really spooked me. It also made me realize how much I feel this piece of property is 'mine.'

"At the same time, I've become very aware that I have come to live on what's now called Treaty 6 Territory with its long, fraught history of relations between Indigenous people and settlers," says Major, who lives in Edmonton.

She's been thinking deeply about how individuals fit into huge expanses of place and time.

Alice Major

"You arrive somewhere through an almost random set of events – almost as if you'd been dropped from the sky yourself – and then realize you're caught up in ongoing currents that go back to ancient empires on the other side of the ocean," she says. "So the book crystallized around being here, at this point in human history, and knowing how deeply connected we are to the past."

The poems in *Knife on Snow* span millennia of Earth's history by linking the past, present, and future. They ask: Who will we be when the end comes? What mark will we leave on this world?

The first section, "A fate for fire," uses the Anglo-Saxon alliterative verse form to explore climate change, colonization, and the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire. It tells a parallel story of the Norse myth of Thor and Loki battling *jötnar*, giants who are actually cosmic forces. For



Major, her use of this style of storytelling reflects the world's interconnectedness.

"The boreal forest is a circumpolar biome wreathing the globe, through Canada to Scandinavia and beyond. It's massively important to Earth's climate systems and increasingly vulnerable to fire. So it felt natural to reach across the ocean for myths that could help frame the link between forest fire and climate."

Major also explores the proliferation of anger and its prevalence in a post-pandemic society, saying it is one of the most dangerous and over-expressed emotions in the world today, making people vulnerable to manipulation.

"For the longest time, I had a great deal of difficulty expressing anger myself – a fairly common experience for women," she explains. "We face a constant dilemma: how to avoid the traps of being 'made angry,' but also how to use anger's energy when we genuinely need to."

Scattered throughout this collection are six different takes on the idea of apocalypse. Perhaps surprisingly, Major includes the apocalypse of aging as "an end to the current state of things."

"I think the widespread tendency for human societies to imagine narratives about 'end times' may be a way of trying to cope with the existential conflict between knowing we'll certainly die, but not knowing when our end will actually come," she says.

But, in spite of her embrace of the end times, Major weaves optimism throughout this book.

"The world as a whole will *not* end," she says. "It has been through staggering amounts of change already. Now is a worrisome moment in history, but humans are not stuck in it forever. I find this to be oddly hopeful." ❁

Remedies include returning to grief, and the love it grows from, for Winnipeg poet

*Debut collection comes from m. patchwork monoceros
'rebuilding my heart's foundations'*

by Sanna Wani

REMEDIES FOR CHIRON

m. patchwork monoceros

Radiant Press

\$25.00 pb, 80 pages

ISBN: 978-1-98927-488-0

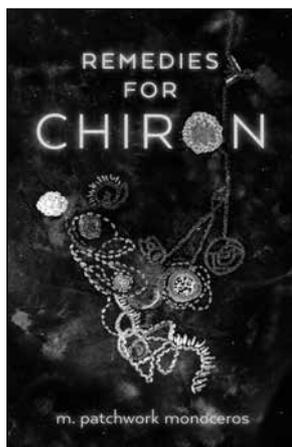
R*emedies for Chiron* is a warm and powerful debut collection of poetry by m. patchwork monoceros, a Black, agender, and queer poet who is “Jamaican by blood, Canadian by birthplace,” and who lives in Treaty 1 Territory, in Winnipeg.

According to monoceros, the collection began in January 2018 in Dawson City, Yukon, the home of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation, where they were a visiting artist. The grief of losing a grandmother and a blockage around a film project led monoceros to revisiting poems from their archive, and reconnecting with “past selves.”

“The remedies – the short pieces that open each chapter – grew out of reconnecting with past poems and reflecting on the wisdom I didn’t know I was harbouring at the time.”

Those past selves included someone who experienced intense grief at a young age (they lost their mother very young), and monoceros notes that “no one really teaches us what or how to grieve as children.” They began to write poetry to remedy their “bewildering grief” and so understood remedies not so much as cures, but as repetitions, rituals, returns to the grief – and the healing – that would never end.

“For me,” says monoceros, “there is no end to the grief I live with; and though a painful and despondent cycle



m. patchwork
monoceros

to accept as part of my life, the love that precipitated that grief and the connection to the mutable form of my mother’s memory are not conditions I want to be cured of.”

Through this reframing, monoceros found that poetry was a welcome tool to gently dull the sharp edges of grief from time to time. To them, poetry is a craft of heart medicine.

Remedies for Chiron begins with an epigraph by astrologer Charm Torres that explains how Chiron, classified in mythology and astrology as The Wounded Healer, suggests that the key to our deepest strength is within our deepest wounds. The epigraph says, in part, “Chiron shows us that our individual wounds can find refuge and rest through the salves of collective healing.”

monoceros expresses what they have learned about wounding and healing from the grip (queer+crip) kin within Disability Justice communities. Part of healing is understanding that a person isn’t less valuable, loveable, or worthy because their body exists outside of the accepted norms of ability or health. To live and to heal, monoceros turns to self-love and self-acceptance, and this book is a testament to that devotion.

“We may not find healing in the places, people, institutions, faiths, practices that are most socially accepted,” monoceros says. “And we may not find it where we used to, but that doesn’t mean it is not available or deserved.”

Transformation, along with grief, wounding, and healing, is a powerful theme in the book, and the poet’s practice itself has transformed. Poetry began as a way for young monoceros to respond to emotional triggers; it has now become a source of inquiry and inspiration.

“That this book exists means the cosmos to me,” says monoceros. “This feels like an accomplishment for both my mother’s memory and my many selves that have spent 35+ years seeking and healing and rebuilding my heart’s foundations after that life-altering loss.” 🌿

Amid upheaval, Lucas Crawford took to the page, reflecting on queer sex, love, and place

Poetry collection borne by 'personal pandemic-tinted reckoning with various pasts'

by Ariel Gordon

MUSTER POINTS

Lucas Crawford

University of Calgary Press

80 pages

\$28.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-452-6

\$18.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-453-3

Available as an ebook

Maritime poet Lucas Crawford's latest poetry collection, *Muster Points*, has its origins in the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, Crawford arrived at the Banff Centre for the Arts, ready to mentor writers at a retreat.

A week later, the retreat was cancelled and Crawford was in quarantine, and, as the catalogue copy says, "coughing like a good fat asthmatic at high altitude, ending a relationship, not knowing when or how he would get home, or where home would be when he got there."

By the time Crawford had been tested for COVID-19 and cleared, travel for someone with multiple risk factors for severe outcomes was strongly discouraged.

"I had myself, my coping skills, my laptop, one big suitcase, a cheque for a few thousand dollars for working at the writing retreat, and my friends on the other end of a text or a call," Crawford says.

After a month in Banff, Crawford found safe havens in Edmonton and Vancouver. He coped with all this change, personally and globally, by writing, connecting with the people he loved, and focusing on what was most important to him.

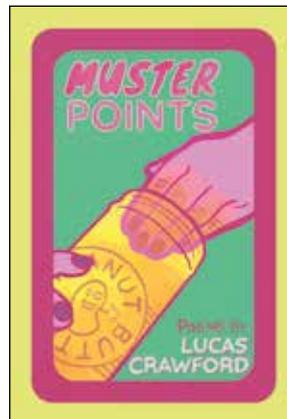
"I look back on it as an incredible time of clarity; the pressure and urgency of the pandemic and my own odd isolation-on-the-road brought me back to myself with a strength and speed I have seldom experienced," he says. "Listen, the pandemic is no gift, but I am very grateful for the lucidity it brought to my life at that time."



Lucas Crawford

Crawford is now settled at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, where he is an associate professor in the Department of Fine Arts and Humanities and is the Canada Research Chair of Transgender Creativity and Mental Health.

Though the initial goal for this book was to give Crawford something to do every day, a clearer purpose soon emerged.



"As both the pandemic and my manuscript stretched on, I found myself in new locations and new relationships in very familiar cities and sometimes familiar dynamics," Crawford says.

"The goals then grew accordingly to include my personal pandemic-tinted reckoning with various pasts in various places, always with an ear for the unknown that I was then (and in some sense always) inhabiting. In other words, I started asking

myself: What are *my* muster points?"

This question pushed Crawford to explore ideas about queer sex and love through pop music and place.

But the best description of what a poetry book does is sometimes another poem, as in this abecedarian by Crawford:

"Absolute unit of a poetry Book. But I'm Biased, of Course. Cuz I wrote it, Duh. Description: Disabled Dude Eats up words and Edits them Endlessly. Poems about Feast, Famine, Flirtation. Farewell, Fustigation. Fiona Apple. Gaga too. How did I survive Isolation? With Jokes? Also by writing about Kink. Latency. Leather. Leaving. Modernism. (No really, a long queer poem about modernism and Opera.) Others about Peanut butter. Paint colours. Pain. Pizza. Queer stuff? Queer stuff! Rural memories. Strawberries. Star-shaped donuts. The Upside to Verily Weathering a pandemic, via poetry, is licence to be a bit eXtra, even if You already were. You should read some poetry. I mean, hey – it's better than Zoom." 🌿

MORE POETRY

AMONG THE UNTAMED

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

This modern retelling of the story of Joan of Arc in linked poems casts her as a Prairie-born Jeanne Dark, a protagonist who explores sexual politics, feminism, gender identity, and how one makes meaning of life. By turns angry, visceral, and hopeful, the lyric poems are filled with tenderness and magic.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-46-9)

BEBAKHSHID

Nina Mosall

Weaving poetry throughout intimate accounts, storylines, and snippets that revolve around intersections of being Iranian, an immigrant, and a woman, this book is a social commentary on the everyday experiences and treatment of Middle Easterners.

(ARP Books, \$18.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-74-8, available as ebook)

BODY WORKS

dennis cooley

Celebrating the body in all its broken bits, these poems explore time and mortality, and how heart and soul move within the aging body (wheezing and farting), in the playful and poignant styles and the vernacular and meditative voices for which cooley is known.

(University of Calgary Press, \$28.99 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-449-6)

DIAGNOSING MINOR ILLNESS IN CHILDREN

Kerry Ryan

In her third poetry collection, Ryan examines all the hard things in life – family, grief, dog obituaries, lice combs, and most of all, being a mother. These fierce and tender poems are filled with self-doubt and humour, birds and animals.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-48-3)

DISLOCATIONS

Karen Enns

These lyrical poems take the readers on a journey through the vicissitudes of

seasons and weather, peering closely at human and non-human lives, and the locations and dislocations that perspective implies and creates.

(University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-930-3, available as ebook)

THE FOXHOLES AT THE BORDERS OF SOFA CUSHIONS

Counce Brampton

A fascinating look at the creative process, this collection includes the various drafts of each poem, including scans of notebook pages, showing how they are built, bit by bit, through repetition with small variations, with goals of alternate understandings and the preservation of a life's work.

(Your Nickel's Worth Press, \$19.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-99-4)

GOOD MORNING POEMS: A START TO THE DAY FROM GREAT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POETS

George Bowering

Bowering has curated a selection of poems to read in the morning from about 500 years of English-language literature, and the poems are accompanied by conversational and insightful essays, which add historical, political, feminist, socio-economic, and literary context, along with his witty personal response.

(NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-065-8, available as ebook)

INDIE ROCK

Joe Bishop

Set firmly in the rhythms and landscapes of Newfoundland, these poems reveal a life of sex, drugs, and rock and roll as a queer poet/musician comes of age and struggles with loss, addiction, and trauma, and copes through the making of art.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-678-5, available as ebook)

IT BEGINS IN SALT

Natalie Meisner

The poems in this collection explore how the heart grows and evolves, through experiences of growing up in a blue-collar life, and then mothering, working,

and loving. Meisner urges readers to love harder and to pay homage to loved ones.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-47-6)

LOOKIN' FOR JOY

Beth Goobie

Goobie's lyric style has taken on the verve of spoken word and slam. Exuberant and audacious, these odes – to old shirts and toilets, to the mind and exclamation marks! – and rants explode with energy and bubble on the page, expressing all the big emotions – outrage, pride, desire, and of course, joy.

(Exile Editions, \$24.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55096-977-1, available as ebook)

MONITORING STATION

Sonja Ruth Greckol

This feminist experimental lyric poetry uses the language of astronomy and resource extraction, and refers to Norse and Roman gods to explore belonging and responsibility in the contexts of a mother's death, a granddaughter's birth, settler-Indigenous relations in Alberta, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a precarious world.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-679-2, available as ebook)

OLDMAN'S RIVER: NEW AND COLLECTED POEMS

Sid Marty

Showcasing work that reflects an extraordinary ecological commitment and observation of the western wilderness and its inhabitants, this volume brings together the poems of Marty's three books – *Headwaters* (1973), *Nobody Danced with Miss Rodeo* (1981), and *Sky Humour* (1999) – and as many poems as possible that were not previously published in book form, from the 1960s to 2021, along with an introduction by Owen Percy and Kit Dobson, and an extensive interview with Pamela Banting.

(NeWest Press, \$44.95 pb, 408 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-073-3, available as ebook)

REBELLION BOX

Holley Ghadery

This debut collection of poems explores motherhood, the universe, race relations, and knowing and wondering in images of sky, weapons, yoga poses, and summer days. Ghadery plays with forms such as the glosa, the erasure poem, and the pantoum, and interacts with other authors, such as L. M. Montgomery, Constance Beresford Howe, Adele Wiseman, and Catherine Bush, and their texts.

(Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989274-91-0)

RECKONING

Patrick Friesen

A long poem in search of itself, this book comprises segments calling and responding like jazz musicians riffing back and forth, with snippets of conversation wafting through, as the master poet wonders about how he is navigating through life, lost in the memories long gone, and those still alive in the present.

(Anvil Press, \$17.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-216-7)

**SELF-PORTRAIT EMBRACING
A FABULOUS BEAST**

Jim Nason

This collection explores the human need for connection in times and spaces where that is risky – during the COVID-19 pandemic or in dangerous relationships, for example. Yet the poet believes there is safety and redemption through language and imagination.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-51-3)

SWIM / INTO THE NORTH'S BLUE EYE

Annette Lapointe

The poems in this debut collection by fiction writer Lapointe move, across the country and continents, and through time to the past lives of her parents. Driving through the landscapes of Western Canada and into memories of water, and flying out of the North and home from Seoul, the speakers of these poems are precise in their observations of birds and wildlife, and their portrayal of harsh weather and insects.

(Anvil Press, \$18.00 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-211-2)

SUNNY WAYS

ryan fitzpatrick

Oscillating between images of environmental collapse and resistance, the two long poems of this book examine the negativity and doubt, the inaction and passivity, and the contradictions and complicity involved in extractive capitalism and climate change denial.

(Invisible Publishing, \$21.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-778430-18-3, available as ebook)

THERE'S MORE

Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

Umezurike explores the migrant experience and ideas of home and identity in concrete urban images – bus stations, trains, condo neighbours, food courts – and sensuous images of nature – birds, trees, flowers, insects – in these precise lyrical poems that are always in motion and always striving for connection.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-680-8, available as ebook)

XANAX COWBOY

Hannah Green

This edgy, darkly comic debut is a long poem – often vain and ridiculous, direct and pulling no punches, with tangents of new shapes and fresh metaphors – that considers the romanticization of addiction and mental illness (particularly in relation to the notion of the artist) via the romanticization of the Wild West, with a specifically feminist approach.

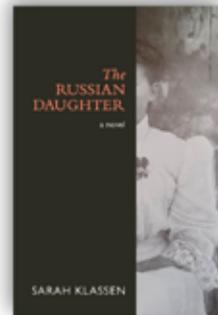
(House of Anansi, \$19.99 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4879-1115-4, available as ebook)



Books to believe in

The Russian Daughter
a novel
Sarah Klassen

"In this bittersweet work of historical fiction, Manitoba's Sarah Klassen tells a powerful story that explores childlessness, family and belonging."
—*Winnipeg Free Press*



Return Stroke:
essays & memoir
Dora Dueck

"Her sense of storytelling and ability to create compelling scenes make *Return Stroke* a masterful work of personal history."
—*Anabaptist World*



CMU PRESS | CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY
cmupress.ca

Real-life pilgrimage to Burning Man amid grief, transformation comes to life in one-woman play

Mieko Ouchi drew from her mother's stories, diaries, and family's sense of humour

by Luis Reis

BURNING MOM

Mieko Ouchi

Playwrights Canada Press

\$18.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-0-36910-434-2

Mieko Ouchi's one-woman play *Burning Mom* follows Dorothy, a character based on the playwright's mother, as she uncovers the pain and grief of the past so that she can fully embrace the future. The title is a reference to Burning Man, the Nevada art festival to which Ouchi's mother made a pilgrimage a year after her husband's passing.

"The title is also a way of describing my mom during that period of her life. She was grieving and trying to figure out how to start the next stage of her life, and part of that in a way was setting fire to her past life," explains Ouchi. "As a way to honour it, and to acknowledge that what was – can never quite be again."

Ouchi's mother was key to writing this play.

"My mom and I would talk on the phone and she would tell me about a particular event or experience, and I would go and write my version of it. Eventually she gave me her diaries from that time to read and use, which was an incredible gift," Ouchi says.

"Writing this play was not an intellectual exercise. This play truly came from my heart, and my mom's heart."

Basing her play on real-life events did not make it easy, though. "It is my greatest joy and my greatest fear to write about my family," Ouchi says. "I feel a great responsibility to represent them well. I strive to be honest, but kind. Speculative, but true to the heart of what

happened. And they have graciously given me permission to portray them in the play.

"And honestly, *Burning Mom* is 99.5 per cent true! I dare anyone to guess which are the bits I made up. It might really surprise you!"

Ouchi says that during her family's period of mourning after her father's death, humour was "such a welcome

friend" for them all. "It helped us lift our spirits, recognize the ridiculousness of situations we found ourselves in, and allowed us to see that joy was going to be possible, even when it didn't seem like it was."

So the play reflected that. "I hope that humour allows audiences a way into the grief, that it readies us to experience it, and then helps us let it go," she says.



Mieko Ouchi

Dorothy's journey marks

an important turning point in her life. And Ouchi recognized that journey as a classic pilgrimage, a central story of humanity.

"In the depths of her worst days, my mother just instinctively got up and starting walking, stepping in the footprints of all those who came before her in search of something more."

By the end of the play, the audience has taken this momentous – and hilarious – quest with Dorothy.

Ouchi says, "I hope to bring the audience to Burning Man for a magical shared moment when they can join the circle around the Man and experience that moment of deep reflection. To think about what they are letting go, what they can release, and what they are diving into next. A moment of shared humanity.

"That is definitely the goal of Burning Man but also interestingly enough, the goal of theatre, right? Primal connection and storytelling." 🌵



MORE DRAMA

CALPURNIA

Audrey Dwyer

Julie, who lives an upper class life with her father, a Jamaican-born judge, her brother, an up-and-coming lawyer, and Precy, their Filipina housekeeper, is writing a screenplay to tell the story of Calpurnia, the Black maid in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but she has some problems relating to the culture of the novel.

(Playwrights Canada, \$18.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-431-1)

FOR BOTH RESTING AND BREEDING

Adam Meisner

In M-City in 2150, peace is paramount, which is made partly possible by a genderless – and passionless – society where everyone uses the pronoun *ish*.

With a perfect balance of humour and melancholy, this play sees two historians, an engineer, and two volunteers – an elder and a university student – try to recreate a 1999 suburban house as an animate museum. But is the risk of playing with ideas of binary gender roles and “breeding” too great?

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99073-820-3)

ORPHANS FOR THE CZAR

George F. Walker

This comedy of pathos about the fragility of people in unstable times follows orphan Vasley, who leaves his village to seek a better life in St. Petersburg working in his uncle’s bookstore, where he is caught

between the revolutionaries and the czarists during the early days of the Russian Revolution of 1905.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99073-821-0)

TELL US WHAT HAPPENED

Michelle Robb

This powerful drama deals with the complexities of supporting women who’ve been sexually assaulted even when the accused is a dear friend. How can Charlie believe victims unconditionally while at the same time maintain the idea of the innocence of the accused until proven guilty?

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99073-822-7)

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Graphic novel shows that kids with difficult lives can shift patterns, find breakthroughs

Tight prose links Wanda John-Kehewin's poetry background to graphic novel for young people

by Sarah Seroy

VISIONS OF THE CROW

Wanda John-Kehewin

Illustrations by nicole burton

HighWater Press

\$23.95 pb, 80 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77492-045-9

Available in ebook

For Cree writer Wanda John-Kehewin, author of *Visions of the Crow*, the inspiration to write a graphic novel for young people was personal.

“It came out of the need to tell stories that I wished I could have read as a young person, instead of reading stories that I enjoyed, but couldn’t relate to because my life as an Indigenous child was not reflected anywhere in stories,” she explains.

Visions of the Crow, the first in the Dreams series of graphic novels, follows Damon Quinn, an Indigenous teen living in East Vancouver. He’s already facing a lot: racism, high school bullies, depression, and a parent struggling with alcohol use.

To top it all off, a mysterious crow seems to be following him, and Damon begins to have strange visions. These visions transport him through time and space, connect him to his family’s past, and show how intergenerational trauma can impact people in the present. It is a powerful story that proves knowing ourselves means understanding where we came from.

This is the first graphic novel for John-Kehewin, who has published two books of poetry: *In the Doghouse* and *Seven Sacred Truths*. There are similarities between the two formats, the writer notes.

“Graphic form is like poetry with pictures and tight dialogue; it tells the story in the least amount of words possible.”

John-Kehewin felt the story needed pictures, and collaborated with Ontario-based illustrator nicole burton to bring her words to life. burton, who has experience

working on projects that deal with social issues, immediately felt a personal connection to the story.

“I try to be emotionally present for the material I’m working with,” she explains. “The first time I read Wanda’s

manuscript, I cried.

I felt the sadness and joy for the characters in her story, but also for how it echoed my own pain around alcoholism and intergenerational trauma.”

burton’s illustrations transport the reader into Damon’s world. The contrast between the dull, dreary colours of Damon’s everyday life and the vivid, colourful realm of his dreams in particular, highlight the healing power of learning from history.

That Damon is an ordinary teen on this extraordinary journey is even more inspirational for young readers, burton explains.

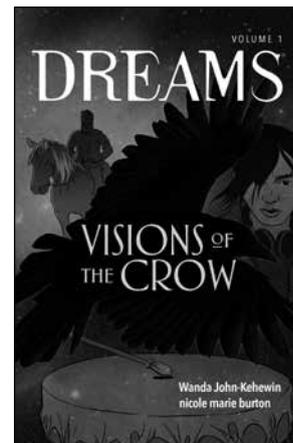
“I think *Visions of the Crow* offers a delicate hope to readers. The character Damon Quinn suggests that everyday kids who make mistakes and have difficult lives can also have breakthroughs and transcend their old pattern, and an important way to do this is by connecting with your past.”

John-Kehewin’s work offers Indigenous youth a chance to see themselves represented in stories. But the graphic novel, she says, is for everyone.

“It is for all audiences that would like a glimpse into the lives of Indigenous people who have been affected by colonialism, to show what that looks like in the hopes of creating space for understanding, compassion, and walking a mile in someone else’s moccasins.”

burton echoes the need for Indigenous representation in literature.

“Indigenous authorship gives the broader public a gateway to Indigenous ways of knowing and being that we desperately need – both to understand our past and prepare ourselves and our world for a very uncertain future.”



Wanda John-Kehewin

TAMAMI QUINN

Travelling through genres, Garry Thomas Morse questions notion of stable identity

Doubles and the titular tulpa wind through story amid themes of longing, possession

by Catherine Hunter

TULPA MEA CULPA

Garry Thomas Morse
At Bay Press
\$24.95 pb, 600 pages
ISBN: 978-1-988168-95-1

Tulpa Mea Culpa, the latest avant-garde novel by Garry Thomas Morse, tells the story of an unknowable poet, and two people—an academic chair and a police clerk—who seek to understand him.

While it’s also a brilliant work of meta-fiction that takes readers on a wild ride through multiple realities, Morse says, it is “partly about the struggles associated with novel writing” and “dedicates time to the continual reworking of certain story elements and themes.” It’s only fitting that almost every character is also writing something: poetry, fiction, diaries, reports, letters, and even a book called *Tulpa Mea Culpa*.

A tulpa is a conscious being brought to life through the power of the imagination. Morse describes this uncanny concept as being “like a projection, where thought can become manifest with real-world consequences.”

This concept has appeared in ancient Tibetan teachings, the world of the occult, and the television series *Twin Peaks*. In this novel, it seems tied to the ways authors create characters, or the ways we “create” our own versions of other people, by projecting our desires onto them.

Another figure haunting this book is the doppelgänger. As Morse explains, “The double, as a literary premise, sets up a mirror before the self.” *Tulpa Mea Culpa* incorporates twins, lookalikes, stunt doubles, ghost writers, pen names, and a car accident that causes amnesia, splitting one character’s consciousness in two. Selves double and multiply, throwing the notion of a stable identity into question.

Meanwhile, the recurrence of butterflies, and creatures in the instar stage, remind us of metamorphosis.

Morse says these images are related to “stages of a self, sloughing, casting off, renewing itself. These rapid cycles of evolution occur throughout the novel.”

As the characters move through different levels of fictional reality, shape-shifting and changing their names, the novel’s language shifts too. Alternately we find ourselves inside a Gothic novel, an epistolary romance, a work of picaresque erotica, or a David Lynch film. The effect is surreal and frequently very funny.

Traditional themes of longing and obsession also run strong, not only in the romantic and sexual sense, but also in the desire to possess another person by knowing them completely.

The characters of the Chair and the Clerk are both compelled to write about the Poet. Morse describes the nature of their pursuits: “The academic (The Chair) and the police clerk (Petra Quest) each behave like detectives in trying to assemble the story of their person of interest. With The Chair, there is a sad air as he laments the masterwork and characters that might have been, and with Ms. Quest, her facts are skewed by her sense of possessiveness. They are each susceptible to the world of ideas, and easily become distracted. Corrupted, even.”

While *Tulpa Mea Culpa* reveals the pitfalls of pinning down reality too tightly, it also shows us the pleasures of a free artistic imagination, shifting fluently through time and space, inventing and reinventing itself. It’s an exhilarating whirlwind of a read. 🌪️



Garry Thomas Morse



Nonlinear tale of homecoming and history weaves Franco-Métis language, culture

Matthew Tétreault's debut novel part of wider Métis resurgence and celebration

by Janelle Desrosiers

HOLD YOUR TONGUE

Matthew Tétreault

NeWest Press

\$22.95 pb, 272 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77439-071-9

Available as an ebook

In his groundbreaking debut novel, *Hold Your Tongue*, Winnipeg author Matthew Tétreault explores loss, searching, and homecoming in Métis and Franco-Manitoban history and culture through a contemporary lens.

The story begins in the small historic Métis and French-Canadian community Ste. Anne, Manitoba. Here, Richard learns that his beloved *mononcle* Alfred has suffered a stroke. Faced with the enormity of this loss, he goes in search of his father to tell him the news.

As he revisits people and places from both his past and present, Richard's memories of his old flame, small-town conflicts, and family secrets bring new revelations about Franco-Métis culture, history, and perhaps even his own place in the world.

"The novel works on multiple levels. There's the present narrative of Richard's story, the historical narrative as well, and part of it is certainly allegorical. It's not only representing Southeast Manitoba but it's also representing broader stories across the prairies. Stories of piecing and connecting together history to family stories," Tétreault says.

"For Francophone Métis families, figuring out where you are in relation to everything can get kind of messy. From history, to people, the culture, the language, even spirituality, trying to understand where you fit in the big picture can be complicated."

Part of that bigger picture is language, and *Hold Your Tongue* weaves English prose with French Michif (a blended language composed of Cree and French spoken by Franco-Métis people), Canadian French, and *Franglais* dialogue in an evocative way. For Franco-Canadian and Franco-Métis

readers, the meaningful inclusion of these familiar patterns of speech will be both grounding and stirring.

"You can't represent culture without language. I wanted to explore the intersections of language, the intersections of culture, and even language loss and learning. As the novel progresses, and as Richard gets closer to his roots, more French and Michif appears in the prose."

Along with language, Tétreault uses nonlinear explorations of time to build a richly layered and moving world of stories. Richard's journey dips in and out of different moments in time in a way that captures the wandering rhythm of old storytellers. Going from the modern day to years and even decades into the past, the novel flashes back to meaningful personal moments set against historical Manitoban events.

"It's exciting to be able to participate in the resurgence of Métis culture and identity. There's a lot of diversity in the Métis Nation, and in much of the Métis history I've discovered in my research, there's this narrative that all the Francophone

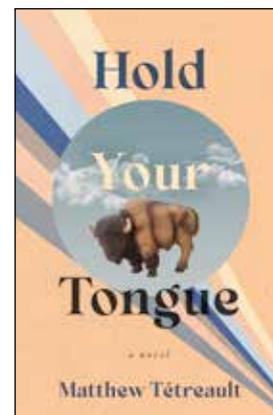
Métis people left Manitoba after 1870. The Francophone aspect of Métis culture hasn't been written about much at all. But there's a richness here," Tétreault shares.

It's not until later that Richard (or the reader) realizes the importance and impact of these events – not only for his family and other Franco-Métis in the area, but for the Métis Nation, Manitobans, and even Canadians.

This impact, and the representation of Franco-Métis history and culture, was Tétreault's primary motivation for writing his novel.

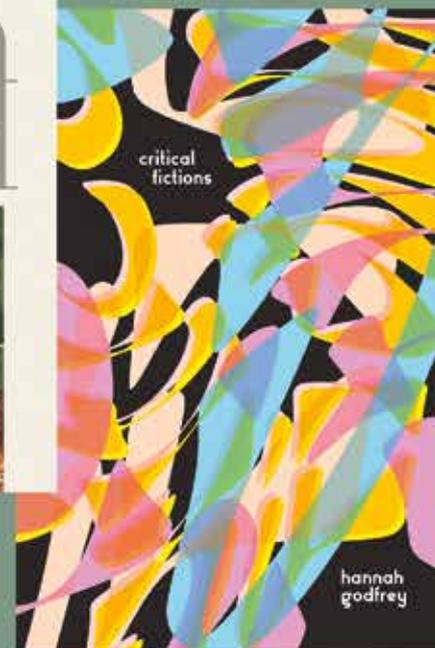
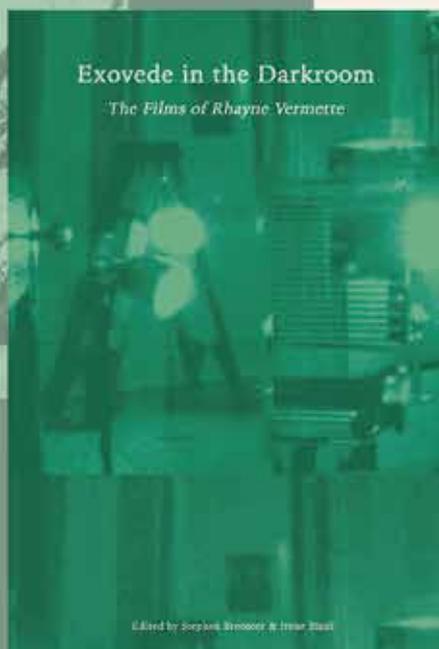
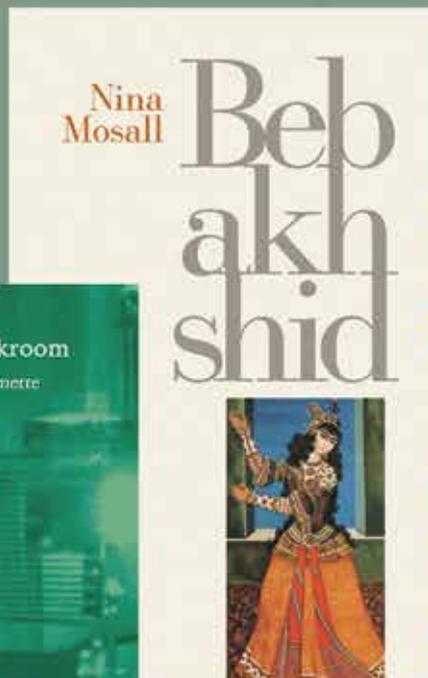
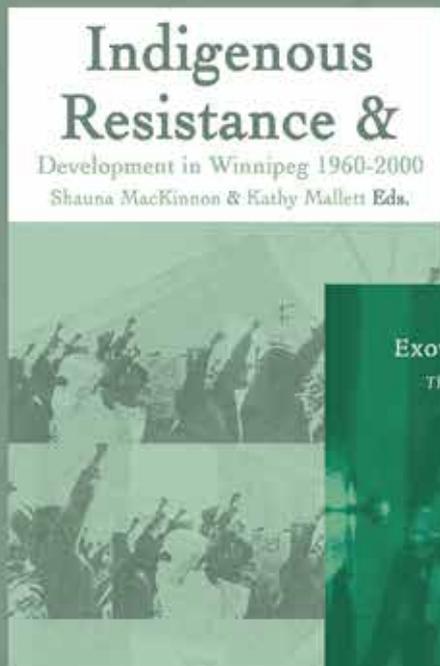
"I wanted to write it because I'd never read something like it before. I wanted to write it so that other Franco-Métis can see themselves in a book, in contemporary stories. It's important to celebrate contemporary Franco-Métis culture, to show what had happened and how we ended up where we are now."

"We're still here: still living, breathing, and celebrating." 🦋



Matthew Tétreault

Spring titles at ARP Books



Indigenous Resistance & Development in Winnipeg 1960-2000

by Shauna MacKinnon & Kathy Mallett
978-1-927886-72-4 \$24.00 CAD/USD

Exovede in the Darkroom: The Films of Rhayne Vermette

by Stephen Broomer & Irene Bindi
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Bebakhshid by Nina Mosall

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Critical Fictions by Hannah Godfrey

97801927886-68-7 \$24.00 CAD/USD

Order: utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca



Poetry collection reflects on perseverance, kinship, offering teachings through storytelling

Rita Bouvier credits her grandparents' values, nurturance for worldview shared in poems

by Jónína Kirton

A BEAUTIFUL REBELLION

Rita Bouvier
Thistledown Press
\$19.95 pb, 72 pages
ISBN: 978-1-77187-234-8

Rita Bouvier's poetry collection, *a beautiful rebellion*, begins with the admission,

"sometimes it's hard to hide
weariness of body exasperation of heart"

Bouvier believes what saves her is that in many ways she had a privileged upbringing. Growing up in the community of Île-à-la-Crosse, Sask., surrounded by family, she was raised by her grandparents who nurtured her culturally. They gave her a language (Cree-Michif, or what is now referred to as Northern Michif), which is woven throughout the collection.

Her grandparents taught her values for living a good life, and while she does despair at times, she thinks back to all that they gave her. She reminds herself to remember what's good. This worldview is reflected in her poetry.

Throughout the collection, readers can feel the presence of those who came before and the importance of kinship, community, and language. The Idle No More movement resonated deeply with Bouvier, reminding her of the many ways Indigenous communities have persevered and thrived since colonization.



Rita Bouvier

BOB MORGAN

When speaking of the movement, she said, "It was a peaceful movement that centred on the right for self-determination of Indigenous Peoples... it was more than that. It was respect for life—the air, the land, the water, the plants, the animals, the birds, etc.

"Some people think the movement is dead. I don't think it is. I see it manifesting itself in all kinds of forms, in the courses being taught at universities, in the arts, in the kinds of things that are happening in our communities where people are forging ahead... sometimes making do with very little to create different experiences for the young people in our communities. I'm hopeful," shares Bouvier.

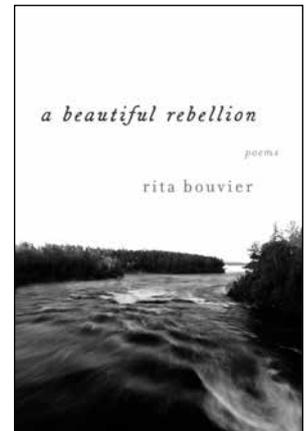
Her poetry demonstrates the resilience and strength of all Indigenous Peoples around the world. Bouvier thinks globally and feels the pandemic reminded us all just how interconnected and interdependent we are.

She speaks to this interdependence in the poem "the rest of us will carry you along." The piece was inspired by a story Sue Goyette told about attending a live performance by Jeremy Dutcher, during which he invited the audience to sing along.

"Before they started, he told the audience to *carry on*, even if they lost their breath momentarily... telling them, 'the rest of us will carry you along.'"

Each poem observes some aspect of life, and many are teachings, offered in the old way through storytelling. Bouvier reminds us that we are called upon to remember the sacrifices of those who came before.

*Louis Riel gave us all
the best of our humanity
by refusing to plead insanity* ✎



Bouvier reminds us that we are called upon to remember the sacrifices of those who came before.

MORE FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT

BOARD BOOKS

DANCING IN MY BONES

Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton,
illustrated by Sherry Farrell
Racette, translated to Michif-
Cree by Norman Fleury

This popular picture book about a young Métis boy named Nolin who learns of Moushoom's first moose hunt, Uncle Bunny's fiddling, and the return of the "Bannock Jig" is now available as a board book. (Gabriel Dumont Institute, \$15.00 bb, 20 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988011-19-6)

MÉTIS CHRISTMAS MITTENS

Leah Marie Dorion, translated to
Michif-Cree by Norman Fleury

A touching ode to Métis family life, this book that looks back to the tradition of making mittens for loved ones as Christmas gifts is now available as a board book. (Gabriel Dumont Institute, \$15.00 bb, 26 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988011-20-2)

PICTURE BOOKS

BEAUTIFUL YOU, BEAUTIFUL ME

Tasha Spillett-Sumner,
illustrated by Salini Perera

Izzy starts to notice that there are differences between her and her beloved mama – their skin is not quite the same tone, Izzy's hair is much curlier than her mama's long braid, their eyes are different colours – but she learns that people don't have to match to belong to each other and to be beautiful.

(Owlkids Books, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77147-452-8)

FOREVER OUR HOME

Tonya Simpson, illustrated by Carla Joseph
This lullaby, gently illustrated and available in a dual language edition in Plains Cree and English, celebrates the plants (such as tiger lily, fireweed, and tamaracks) and animals (such as foxes, chickadees, and speckled frog) of the Prairies, and the family's spiritual connection to the land.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-4598-3563-4, available as ebook)

HEART BERRY BLING

Jenny Kay Dupuis, illustrated
by Eva Campbell

This charming picture book tells the story of Maggie, a young Anishinaabe girl, as she learns about beading and family history from her grandmother, who tells her how she lost her status due to the gender discrimination of the *Indian Act*. (HighWater Press, \$24.95 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-055-8)

SEAGULL ISLAND: KIVĀSKO-MINISCIKOS

Myles H. Charles and Miriam Körner,
illustrated by Miriam Körner

In a lovely celebration of traditional life in modern times, this book follows little Luke and his kohkom and mosôm, who travel to Seagull Island – watching ducks, pelicans, and cormorants along the way – where they collect eggs for their lunch and to share with Auntie at home later. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$22.95 hc, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-010-5)

THE SONG THAT CALLED THEM HOME

David A. Robertson, illustrated
by Maya McKibbin

Inspired by traditional stories, this fantastical adventure tells how Lauren loses her little brother James to the Memekwesewak, creatures who live in water and like to play tricks on humans while they are out canoeing. Lauren must be brave to follow them through a portal and bring James home. (Tundra Books-PRH, \$24.99 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6670-4, available as ebook)

WE BELONG TO THE DRUM

Sandra Lamouche, illustrated
by Azby Whitecalf

Nikosis grew up going to powwows, and when he starts daycare, he doesn't like it, until his mother has the idea to use drums to help him find connection, comfort, and a feeling of belonging. This story of the transformative effects of culturally safe and inclusive education was inspired by the author's son's experience.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-4598-3435-4, available as ebook)

FOR YA READERS

AS I ENFOLD YOU IN PETALS, THE SPIRIT OF DENENDEH, VOL. 2

Richard Van Camp, illustrated
by Scott B. Henderson

The second book in Van Camp's graphic novel series tells a beautiful story of redemption. Curtis returns to Fort Smith from rehab to reconnect with his culture and to help heal his community, taking on Benny the Bank in his efforts to regain the power of the Little People.

(HighWater Press, \$23.95 pb, 72 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77492-041-1)

THE EVERLASTING ROAD

Wab Kinew

This sequel to *Walking in Two Worlds* continues to follow Bugz as she deals with the loss of her beloved brother and moves into a deeper relationship with Feng – who now has family challenges of his own – all while continuing to regain her power in the Floraverse, where she has created the ultimate bot, one who brings solace but whose power may be growing out of control. (Tundra Books-PRH, \$23.99 hc, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6903-3, available as ebook)

KILLING THE WITTIGO: INDIGENOUS CULTURE-BASED APPROACHES TO WAKING UP, TAKING ACTION, AND DOING THE WORK OF HEALING

Suzanne Methot

Written specifically for young adults, reluctant readers, and literacy learners, this book explains the traumatic effects of colonization on Indigenous people and communities, foregrounding Indigenous resilience, and detailing the transformative work being done in urban and on-reserve communities, offering concrete examples of how healing and systemic change are accomplished. (ECW Press, \$29.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-724-3, available as ebook)

FICTION

BAD CREE

Jessica Johns

Eerie dreams, memories of her dead sister and kokum, crows following her – all haunt Mackenzie and send her back to her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

home community in Alberta to face her guilt and grief in this compelling novel about the power of female relationships. (HarperCollins Publishers, \$24.99 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-6548-9, available as ebook)

A GRANDMOTHER BEGINS THE STORY

Michelle Porter

In this debut novel, five generations of Métis women – women seeking knowledge of their heritage, women conquering demons from their past, women seeking entrance to the Afterlife – argue, dance, struggle, laugh, love, and tell stories as they move into healing. (Viking-PRH, \$34.95 hc, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-4537-2, available as ebook and audiobook)

LAST STANDING WOMAN

Winona LaDuke

This 25th anniversary edition of LaDuke's debut novel includes an illustrated historical timeline and character tree to support the non-linear narrative that follows seven generations of Anishinaabeg resistance and resilience. (HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$23.95 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-052-7)

**OLD KEYAM AND BLACK HAWK:
THE COLLECTED WORKS OF
EDWARD AHENAKEW (VOL. 1)**

Edward Ahenakew, edited and with a foreword by Heather Hodgson

This volume brings together two semi-autobiographical stories. Through the angry yet humorous voice of fictional Old Keyam, Ahenakew protests against the colonial settlers' attempts to force the Cree people into "civilization." Never-before-published *Black Hawk* tells of a young Cree man who faces discrimination as he navigates early 20th-century Canada, and who experiences the joy and pain of a budding romance. (University of Regina Press, 356 pages, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-936-5; \$26.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-933-4, available as ebook and audiobook)

**20.12M: A SHORT STORY COLLECTION OF A
LIFE LIVED AS A ROAD ALLOWANCE MÉTIS**

Arnolda Dufour Bowes, illustrated by Andrea Haughian

Based on the experiences of her father, Arnold Charles Dufour, who lived in the

Punnichy, Saskatchewan, Road Allowance Community, these five stories celebrate and acknowledge the humble living conditions of Métis Road Allowance families and their grit and tenacity to survive and succeed in the face of hardships. "20.12m" refers to the narrow width of many of the road allowances throughout the Prairies.

(Gabriel Dumont Institute, \$20.00 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926795-99-7)

POETRY & DRAMA

AKIA: THE OTHER SIDE

Norma Dunning

The latest collection of poems by the Inuk author expresses outrage at the many historical and contemporary colonial injustices toward and misrepresentations of the Inuit – such as the indignity of how Inuit bodies have been displayed, the writings of Charles Dickens, the name of the Edmonton football team, and the way history has been taught for generations. (BookLand Press, \$19.95 pb, 86 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77231-171-6, available as ebook)

**LEAVE SOME FOR THE BIRDS:
MOVEMENTS FOR JUSTICE**

Marjorie Beaucage

This scrapbook-like memoir made up of poems, reflections, observations, photos, and recipes for change from the acclaimed filmmaker, artist, educator, and activist inspires with its portrayal of Beaucage's movements in life – childhood, her life as a young nun, her work in the women's movement, her awakening Two-Spirit identity, her storytelling as a filmmaker, and her political activism – during which she was always working toward justice and social change.

(Kegedon Press, \$20.00 pb, 212 pages, ISBN: 978-1-928120-36-0)

MOVING UPSTREAM

Mary Barnes

In this follow-up to *What Fox Knew*, Barnes again draws on her Ojibwe roots and storytelling style to bring readers' attention to the quiet world that's taken for granted, to inspire wonder in nature, and to provide a sense of connection.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-98-2)

OLD GODS

Conor Kerr

With abundant "prayerie" imagery, both urban and rural, and situated in the Métis mindset where the old gods of the land live always in the rivers, the birds, and the grasses, the poems in this collection move restlessly across landscape and time, searching for something to believe in. (Nightwood Editions, \$19.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-446-5, available as ebook)

TRAILER PARK SHAKES

Justene Dion-Glowa

The poems in this debut collection are direct and hard-hitting, bold and unapologetic, bearing witness to violence, poverty, queer politics, and the injustice that underpins it all. But still, a sense of hope pervades the poems.

(Brick Books, \$22.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77131-590-6, available as ebook)

WHITE GIRLS IN MOCCASINS

Yolanda Bonnell

This hilarious and poignant play follows Miskozi on her quest for what is missing in her life. Accompanied by Waabishkizi, her inner white girl, and guided by Ziibi, a manifestation of an ancestral river, she flits from memories of racist experiences, fantasies of connecting with a boy band, news announcements, and a surreal game show, Wheel of Privilege, along the way discovering and facing her deepest truth. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-24-1)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

**INDIGUEERNESS: A CONVERVERSATION
ABOUT STORYTELLING**

Joshua Whitehead in dialogue with Angie Abdou

Part dialogue, part collage, and part memoir, this book begins with memories of Whitehead's childhood writings and moves to deep discussions about the role of theory, Indigenous language, queerness, and fantastical worlds in his current work, which is moving more and more toward the transcending of genres.

(Athabasca University Press, \$19.99 pb, 92 pages, with full-colour graphic layouts, ISBN: 978-1-77199-391-3, available as ebook)

KĀ-PĪ-ISI-KISKISIYĀN / THE WAY I REMEMBER

Solomon Ratt, edited and with an introduction by Arden Ogg
With text in the Th-dialect or Woods Cree in Standard Roman Orthography and syllabics, translated into English, the recollections in this book tell of Ratt's life before, during, and after residential school, and how he retained his Cree language by returning home every summer. The author's sense of humour and of responsibility shine in these autobiographical anecdotes and poems, and in the sacred stories he shares. (University of Regina Press, \$24.95 pb, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-914-3, available as ebook)

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF AUGUSTINE TATANEUCK: AN INUK HERO IN RUPERT'S LAND, 1800-1834

Renee Fossett
Perhaps the first Inuk employed by the Hudson's Bay Company as a labourer, Tataneuck also worked as an interpreter on John Franklin's two overland expeditions in search of the Northwest Passage. Using HBC journals and archives, Fossett has pieced together a compelling biography of Augustine and a glimpse into the North as it was in the 19th century. (University of Regina Press, 504 pages, with glossary, notes, index, maps, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-929-7; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-926-6, available as ebook)

MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING MÉTIS: A MEMOIR

Deborah L. Delaronde
The award-winning children's book author tells the story of her life in short pieces that relate her harsh experiences as a foster child and single mother, and how she overcame them to find a foster family to love her as an adult, careers as a librarian and writer, and a husband with whom to share a life of ranching and retrospection. (Amazon.ca, 156 pages, \$39.04 hc, ISBN: 978-1-7781105-4-2; \$21.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-7781105-3-5, available as ebook)

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

ARCTIC/AMAZON: NETWORKS OF GLOBAL INDIGENITY

Edited by Gerald McMaster and Nina Vincent
Opening with an epistolary exchange between the editors, then widening to

include essays by 12 Indigenous artists, curators, and Knowledge Keepers from the Arctic and Amazon regions, and ending with over 100 image reproductions and installation shots, this book offers an extraordinary conversation about the artistic practices and geopolitical realities in two environmentally sensitive zones. (Goose Lane Editions, \$60.00 hc, 256 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77310-299-3, available as ebook)

REFERENCE

NĒHIYAWĒWIN AWĀSI-MASINAHIKANIS / A LITTLE PLAINS CREE BOOK FOR CHILDREN: A REFERENCE FOR TEACHING THE PLAINS CREE LANGUAGE

Patricia Deiter, Allen (A. J.) Felix, and Elmer Ballantyne, translated by Elmer Ballantyne, Inez Deiter, May Desnomie, Allen J. Felix, and Joslyn Wuttunee
Hoping to encourage a basic understanding of the Plains Cree language so that learners can converse with Plains Cree speakers, this book focuses on terms familiar to the First Nations Cree people of Saskatchewan, and includes a pronunciation guide, basic rules, translations of everyday words and phrases, and dialogues. The enhanced ebook includes audio and video recordings of the content. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$74.95 coil-bound pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-004-4, available as ebook)

GENERAL NON-FICTION

DECOLONIZING JOURNALISM: A GUIDE TO REPORTING IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Duncan McCue
This guide written specifically for journalism students in Canada provides practical, up-to-date advice about how to develop strong reporting skills and a critical consciousness when engaging with and reporting on Indigenous communities. Interviews with nine leading journalists – including Waubgeshig Rice, Tanya Talaga, and Tim Fontaine – provide valuable teachings on core values such as humility, respect, and relationships. (Oxford University Press, \$59.95 pb, 232 pages, with photos, tables, ISBN: 978-1-19-016426-3)

INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE DIVERSE AMERICAS

Edited by Miguel González, Ritsuko Funaki, Araceli Burguete Caly Mayor, José Marimán, and Pablo Oriz-T
This collection explores current and historical struggles for autonomy within ancestral territories and presents an overview of achievements, challenges, and threats across three decades. Case studies from South America, Central America, Mexico, and Canada provide detailed discussions of autonomy and self-governance in development and in practice. (University of Calgary Press, 624 pages, \$94.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-461-8; \$49.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-462-5; available as ebook)

LEGENDS OF THE CAPILANO

E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), with Chief Joe Capilano (Sahp-luk) and Mary Agnes Capilano (Lixwelut), edited by Alix Shield
The latest in the First Voices, First Texts series updates E. Pauline Johnston's 1911 classic *Legends of Vancouver*, restoring Johnson's intended title. This new edition celebrates the storytelling abilities of Joe and Mary Capilano and includes five additional stories narrated solely or in part by Mary Capilano. Also included are photographs and biographical entries, a detailed publishing history of *Legends*, and interviews with a literary scholar and an archaeologist. (University of Manitoba Press, \$24.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77284-017-9, available as ebook)

RECLAIMING ANISHINAABE LAW: KINAMAADIWIN INAAGONIGEWIN AND THE TREATY RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Leo Baskatawang
Baskatawang traces the history of the treaty relationship between the Crown and the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3, and the Canadian government's failure to administer effective education policy for Indigenous youth, and he details the efforts being made in Treaty 3 Territory to revitalize and codify the Anishinaabe education law, kinamaadiwin inaaakonigewin. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 224 pages, with maps, b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-025-4, available as ebook)

Kevin Nikkel shares his excitement for independent filmmaking in ode to artist-run centre

Book emerged, fittingly, from a documentary on the Winnipeg Film Group

by Paula E. Kirman

ESTABLISHING SHOTS:

An Oral History of the Winnipeg Film Group

Kevin Nikkel

University of Manitoba Press

\$34.95 pb, 456 pages

with b/w illustrations, notes, and bibliography

ISBN: 978-1-77284-013-1

Available as an ebook



Kevin Nikkel

Film Group’s theatre, Cinematheque, was central to Nikkel’s research.

Nikkel says one of the biggest challenges after the release of the documentary was selecting which interviews to put into the book. He and Barber had conducted over 50 interviews, and, “While we could include a short comment from everyone in the film, we couldn’t put

each interview into the book the way it is structured as a collection with a separate chapter for each filmmaker,” he explains.

“In the end, 33 filmmaker interviews are included. One way to ease the sting of leaving many out was to resolve to organize a subsequent volume of interviews with more local filmmakers.”

Another challenge in the making of the book was far more tragic: the passing of Dave Barber in 2021. “He had been integral to both the documentary and drafts of the book. I was sorry that he missed the chance to see the book in final form. I think he would have liked how it turned out,” Nikkel says.

The book includes interviews with BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, and women filmmakers, as well as other sought-after interviews, such as an extended one with Guy Maddin, and one with all three members of l’Atelier National du Manitoba discussing the making of the film *Death by Popcorn*, an independent cult classic.

“I really want *Establishing Shots* to contribute to the conversation about Winnipeg film, and for readers to get excited about the possibilities of independent filmmaking, especially filmmaking in smaller centres,” says Nikkel.

“A theme that comes up repeatedly in the interviews is the importance of regional filmmaking and how there is something distinct about the work being done at Winnipeg Film Group. This artist-run centre has consistently been a hub of dynamic and creative work.”

The Winnipeg Film Group is a diverse group of filmmakers producing experimental and often groundbreaking work. *Establishing Shots: An Oral History of the Winnipeg Film Group* is a collection of interviews providing an intricate exploration of the Winnipeg Film Group’s almost 50-year history as an artist-run centre, as well as its ongoing impact in Canada and beyond.

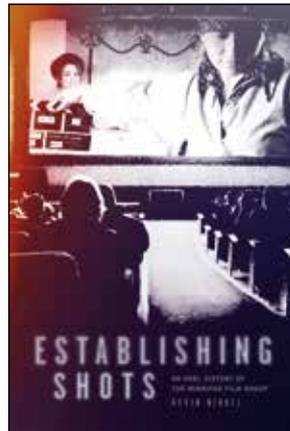
Compiled and presented by Kevin Nikkel, himself an independent filmmaker and long-time member of the Winnipeg Film Group, the conversations also offer perspectives on industry issues and the lives of independent artists, and serve as a resource and inspiration to emerging filmmakers.

The book started, appropriately, with a film.

“When I began a documentary on the Winnipeg Film Group – with Cinematheque programmer Dave Barber as my co-director – I knew that we would be sitting down with some legendary filmmakers who had some great stories about the evolution of the independent Winnipeg film community,” Nikkel says.

“The film, *Tales from the Winnipeg Film Group*, was released in 2017, and the book really emerged as an extension of that project, in an effort to share more of the conversations that I’d captured during production.”

The research and interviews for the book were conducted between 2015 and 2017. Barber’s extensive personal archive from his decades as programmer for the



Doctor shares struggles of caring for his children, himself, and disrupts illness recovery tales

Shane Neilson, also a poet, wanted to create ‘intergenerational story of enduring disability’

by Margaret Anne Fehr

SAVING:

A Doctor’s Struggle to Help His Children

Shane Neilson

Great Plains Publications

\$25.95 pb, 224 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77337-103-0

A medical doctor, poet, and critic living in Guelph, Ontario, Shane Neilson has written the riveting memoir *Saving: A Doctor’s Struggle to Help His Children*, which describes the balancing act of being both a physician and a father while procuring treatment for his son, who developed epilepsy at the age of two, and for his daughter, who showed signs of severe depression at age 10.

One might assume that as a physician, Neilson would have an easy passage through the ranks of medical professionals and hospital corridors, but his story presents the extenuating circumstances in his own trauma-ridden history that dispel the notion of, what he calls, “the happy story” with a temporary illness that allows for a complete or near-complete return to function.”

Neilson instead tells of how some disabilities last for life, and go on to affect the lives of others. In addition to his son’s epilepsy and his daughter’s depression, this memoir explores the author’s childhood with an abusive father (whose “alcoholism, madness, and strangeness” led 10-year-old Shane to contemplate shooting himself), his later suicide attempt as a young father, and his ongoing mental illness.

“I wanted to tell an intergenerational story of enduring disability,” he says, and he succeeds, interweaving the family narratives to powerful effect.

Neilson was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum in 2021. “This crystallized many of the previous



experiences in my life,” he says. “With this lens providing an explanation for so much, I began to push back against the stigma and ableism that prevented me from even having the vocabulary to identify and describe my experience.”

Part of pushing back was to write of his experiences, and Neilson found they weren’t difficult to recall.

“They are front of mind, and will probably remain so,” he says.

And the time for a full-length memoir had also arrived. “The long-form decision was deliberate, as I had long rued my previous non-fiction as episodic and unnecessarily fragmented,” he says. “I wanted to write a whole, cohesive book. The work was exponentially greater, as one would expect.”

With one memoir completed, Neilson expects that *Saving* will be followed by more works of non-fiction.

“My son is intellectually disabled, and I have written the beginnings of another memoir on our mutual non-neurotypicality, on how oppressed we are by normates due to non-reciprocal sociality,” he says.

While *Saving* may be more about how the author himself was saved than about how his children were, Neilson has helped and continues to help others.

He notes that his childhood history has had an influence on his work as a doctor. “Personal illness greatly informs my medical practice. At present, I predominantly provide mental health care to adolescents and young adults,” he says.

“Caring for my children as I have done kept them here, I think; and vice versa. As for my patients, I believe what many tell me – that they’ve longed for a doctor who is able to listen, who seems to care. Some have told me it saved their life.” 🌿



Shane Neilson

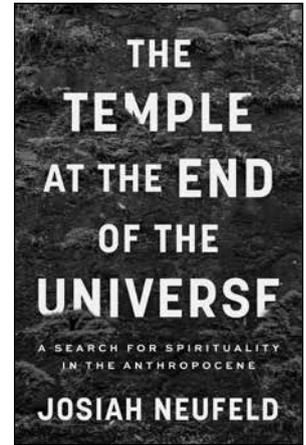
KWHEADSHOTS

Questions of spirituality, climate change, and social justice weave into personal narrative

Josiah Neufeld brings community-based ethos into informative journey through complex topics

by Brock Peters

THE TEMPLE AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE:
A Search for Spirituality in the Anthropocene
 Josiah Neufeld
 House of Anansi
 \$24.99 pb, 240 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-4870-1063-8
 Available as an ebook



In these days of change and unrest, complex questions have risen to the fore of our social narratives. With *The Temple at the End of the Universe: A Search for Spirituality in the Anthropocene*, Josiah Neufeld adopts the role of both a thoughtful guide and a humble companion as he helps readers explore one of the most pressing issues of all.

That is, in his words, “how humans can learn a different way of living in relationship to the ecosystems and life cycles and species with whom we co-exist.” For Neufeld, these relationships can only be understood in the context of his ongoing spiritual and social justice work.

Winnipeg-based Neufeld has written award-winning articles and essays for such publications as the *Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, and the *Globe and Mail*. “A book seemed like a natural next step,” he says.

His plan was to write essays exploring how issues of spirituality, climate change, and social justice intersect with our everyday lives, and to tie them together with a narrative. “I knew that the connecting thread would be my own experience,” he says.

Neufeld’s experience includes both physical and spiritual journeys. In *The Temple at the End of the Universe*, he writes about his childhood in Burkina Faso with his Christian missionary parents. He recounts

perspective-shattering experiences with Wet’suwet’en land defenders at the Unist’ot’en Healing Centre and Coyote Camp, where he was at all times mindful of his colonial context.

“I tried to take the posture of a guest in someone else’s house. I learned about their story and their work before I went,” he says.

Neufeld pursues the link between spirituality and environmental justice as he travels to visit the Wild Church Network in Wisconsin, Hildegard House in Minnesota, and the community of St. Peter’s in Detroit. Finally, he goes to the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, where he spends three days fasting in the wilderness and facing his fear and grief.

“It’s important to acknowledge and make room for hard emotions,” he says. “It’s okay for us to feel those emotions, to let them flow through us, but not be dominated by them.”

These intersections – fear and empowerment, spirit and environment, justice and transformation – shine through on every page of his book. They are often complex; as Neufeld points out, “A lot of traditional environmental work has been discriminatory. That’s why it’s so important to include a justice lens in climate and environmental work.”

To which he adds a spiritual lens, which both empowers and consoles him in this difficult work. “I think spiritual work is a process of both learning to hold on more fiercely and, paradoxically, of learning to let go,” he says.

Neufeld is clearly comfortable working within the context of paradox, and through a narrative at once deeply personal and rigorously informative, he brings the reader right alongside. In so doing, he fulfills a fundamental tenet of both his writing and his own outlook, which is the importance of working, learning, and growing in community.

“The best thing,” he says, “is to get out and work collectively with other people, and to support each other emotionally and spiritually in the process.” 🌿



Josiah Neufeld

DANIEL NEUFELD

Essays offer glimpse into Cam Scott as enthusiastic reader, melding literature and theory

Scott explores psychoanalysis and Marxism as ways to improve life, for social transformation

by melanie brannagan frederiksen

THE VANISHING SIGNS

Cam Scott

ARP Books

\$24.00 pb, 280 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927886-64-9

Available as an ebook

Winnipeg poet and critic Cam Scott's second book *The Vanishing Signs* is a collection of essays that explore literature and politics, using various theories to illuminate those explorations.

Scott responds to texts such as Robert Glück's *Margery Kempe*, Dionne Brand's *The Blue Clerk*, Renata Adler's *Speedboat*, Gail Scott's *The Obituary*, and David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*, and in the process, he provides a fascinating glimpse into himself as a serious and enthusiastic reader.

Although these essays are densely theoretical, Scott does not necessarily distinguish between literature and theory in his reading practice. He says, "Sometimes, in an ecumenical mood, I prefer to think of theory as a special case of literature, where my favourite works of theory pass a reasonable test of style, and I can read them on the pleasure principle, even as they elucidate structures and topics of concern."

As a producer of both theory and poetry, though, Scott does have different criteria for the different kinds of texts and purposes. "If literature makes representations of the world," he says, "I see literary theory as a way of testing or qualifying those representations."

He also believes that the theory has to arise from the material – "the material has to recommend the theory, in a sense."

Two theories often arising are Marxism and psychoanalysis. Scott resists the way these are treated as simply ways of analyzing texts. "For me," he says, "these disciplines are, if not scientific in the customary sense, still the best available descriptions of the subjective

structures and objective realities of which artworks are a product.

"Both psychoanalysis and Marxism are attempts to improve life, whether one's own or that of the collective, by feats of understanding – they are purposed at transformation."

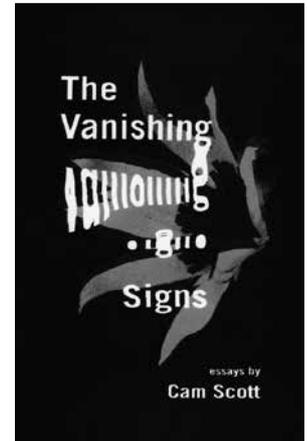
Scott's essays explore the way literature can model social transformation. His ideas about this evolve over the course of the book. "In some of the earlier essays, I more or less suppose a prefigurative or imaginary capacity for literature, such that it can depict worlds in which we might desire to live, but do not inhabit at present," he says.

"By the time of the final essays collected here, I prefer to think of works of art as socially derived reflections of the society in which they are produced. But of course, these statements don't replace each other, they presuppose one another; for how can literature depict an altered world if its fantastic terms aren't derived from reality?"

Scott writes in the preface to the collection that "these pieces have two things in common: that thought is not private, and nothing should be," stating his opposition to capitalism in all of its forms.

"My strongest conviction is that capitalism is a seismically violent ongoing event, and we need to ensure its historical transience," he says. "I can imagine the abolition of private property transpiring in many registers and by many means, but I often think about the absolutely common property of language as an obvious model. We use it, and we never use it up. We share words, and nothing is exchanged. Our consciousness resists and falsifies privatization.

"I've thought about it for a while and am fairly satisfied that this is not a metaphor." 🌿



Cam Scott

Interviews with 23 men working toward ‘good life’ show courage, trust, need for societal care

Systemic barriers set stage for trouble, which Elizabeth Comack researched, studied for seven years

by Emelia Fournier

**REALIZING A GOOD LIFE:
Men’s Pathways out of Drugs and Crime**

Elizabeth Comack
Fernwood Publishing
\$27.00 pb, 224 pages
ISBN: 978-1-77363-565-1
Available as an ebook



Elizabeth Comack

a good life for these and many men, namely “intersecting race, class, and gender inequalities tied to colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy,” which are the social justice issues that she has spent her career researching.

“The trauma that colonialism generates in the lives of Indigenous peoples is starkly evident in the men’s stories,” says Comack. “Too often, state intrusion into their lives in the form of the child welfare and criminal justice systems acted as a handcuff rather than a helping hand.”

Realizing a Good Life illustrates how our current systems work against rehabilitation. Comack describes how many of the men, despite living in sobriety and working hard, still struggle to get by, often working many hours at jobs that don’t pay a living wage.

She describes how the men are willing to do whatever it takes to care for themselves and their families, but notes society could, and should, undertake systemic change so their lives are not this difficult.

“We need to create an economy that puts the ‘making of people’ – in other words, all of the caring and labour that goes into raising children – over the ‘making of profit,’” she writes in the book.

Comack says the social supports that were enacted during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic are a good example of how social spending can help lift people up through hard times, proving that if governments really wanted to help their citizens realize a good life, they could do so.

“No one can realize a good life on their own. In order to achieve wholeness, balance, connection, growth, and healing – those elements of an Indigenous understanding of a good life – all of us require social supports,” says Comack.

“That means we need to care for and care about others.” 🌿

Elizabeth Comack is a Winnipeg-based distinguished professor emerita of sociology and criminology at the University of Manitoba. She has researched street gangs and crime in Winnipeg for decades, but she wanted to delve deeper into the stories of “men in trouble” – and their struggle to live a “good life.”

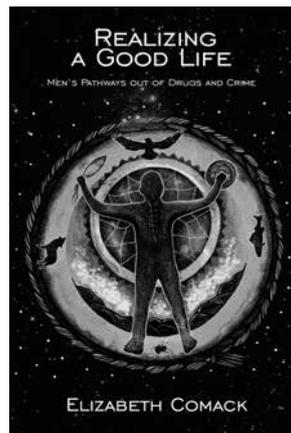
While *Realizing a Good Life: Men’s Pathways out of Drugs and Crime* is the product of seven years of research and writing, for the 23 interview subjects of the book, realizing a good life is a lifelong process.

Comack, alongside her late colleague Larry Morrisette, interviewed men, most of whom were Indigenous, who had been involved in gangs, the drug trade, and other forms of criminality. The men also used drugs, and went through periods where they were “in the problem.”

“What they meant by that was being so far into drugging and drinking that they felt there was no way out,” Comack explains.

Comack centres the book on the men telling their stories of how they got into and out of “the problem” to live “a good life.” The men were very forthcoming in their interviews, and she acknowledges, “It takes a lot of courage – and trust – to be able to do that.”

Before sharing the stories of the men, though, Comack carefully and clearly outlines the systemic barriers, the context of social inequalities, that work against achieving



MORE NON-FICTION

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

DRIVING IN PALESTINE

Rehab Nazzal

This artistic research-creation project documents the politics of surveillance and mobility in contemporary Palestine through 160 black and white photographs captured from moving vehicles on the roads of the West Bank, hand-drawn maps, and critical essays in Arabic and English by Palestinian and Canadian scholars and artists.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$34.00 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 97-1-77363-593-4, available as ebook)

FOUR SEASONS BY THE SALISH SEA: DISCOVERING THE NATURAL WONDERS OF COASTAL LIVING

Carolyn Redl, photography
by Nancy Randall

After moving to Vancouver Island from the Prairies in 2001, Redl made it her mission to learn all about the Salish Sea and living on the island. Organized around the seasons, this book, with Randall's stunning photographs, provides facts about plants, animals, history, parks, and communities, and celebrates the idyllic setting while also recognizing potential threats.

(Heritage House, \$32.95 pb, 288 pages, with full-colour photos throughout, map, selected sources, index, ISBN: 978-1-77203-399-1, available as ebook)

A RIBBON OF HIGHWAY: A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION OF CANADIAN IDENTITY

Taylor Rhodes

The photographs in this collection, taken over a decade and from one coast of Canada to another, explore and question what being a Canadian means. From an aerial view of the patchwork of fields in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to a spare room in a family home in Claybane, Saskatchewan, to the stadium and public library in Calgary, these images evoke the cultural threads that hold Canada together.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$40.00 hc, 176 pages, with full colour photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77160-579-3, available as ebook)

WESTERN VOICES IN CANADIAN ART

Patricia Bovey

In this lavishly illustrated and ambitious survey of western Canadian art, Bovey first provides a detailed account of how diverse artists in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, both Indigenous and settler, contributed to Canadian and international art scenes from the 18th century to the present day. She then adopts a thematic approach, connecting art and artists across time and provinces.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$49.95 hc, 480 pages, with full-colour images throughout, ISBN: 978-0-88755-047-8, available as ebook)

WILLIAM KURELEK: JEWISH LIFE IN CANADA

Edited by Sarah Milroy

In 1975, revered Ukrainian-Canadian artist William Kurelek created a suite of 16 jewel-toned paintings titled *Jewish Life in Canada* in homage to his Jewish art dealer and friend Avrom Isaacs, portraying Prairie farm colonies; businesses and schools in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg; and celebrations of festivals and community events. This book includes essays on multiculturalism, Jewish life, and Kurelek's artistic methods, and more than 50 images, including the full suite of paintings as well as previously unpublished archival source material.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$45.00 hc, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-319-8)

ESSAYS

CHRYSOPOEIA: ESSAYS OF LANGUAGE, LOVE, AND PLACE

Christine Stewart-Nuñez

With a poet's eye and ear, in these short essays Stewart-Nuñez reflects upon language, place, and motherhood – and the fears and hopes that come with it. Her explorations range in location from Turkey and Japan to Poland and South Dakota, and in time over decades, as she uncovers moments of tension and intense learning.

(Stephen F. Austin State University Press, \$27.99 pb, 132 pages, ISBN: 978-1-62288-930-3)

GUIDES

THE PRAIRIE GARDENERS GO-TO FOR FRUITS

Janet Melrose and Sheryl Normandeau

Whether interested in growing an orchard in a rural area, planting a couple of bushes or trees in a small urban yard, or growing edibles on a balcony, fruit gardeners will find this book invaluable. The authors cover planning, planting, and caring for fruit plants, dealing with pests and diseases, and harvesting and storing produce, and they provide information on mulching, fertilizing, watering, pruning, and propagation.

(TouchWood Editions, \$15.00 pb, 160 pages, with full-colour images throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77151-390-6, available as ebook)

THE PRAIRIE GARDENERS GO-TO FOR PERENNIALS

Janet Melrose and Sheryl Normandeau

This new volume in the acclaimed Prairie Gardeners Go-To series focuses on garden flowers and vegetables whose stems and leaves die back to their crowns each fall but whose roots remain alive in the Prairie climate. The authors cover how to select and grow these perennials, and provide tips on watering, mulching, and deadheading them, diagnosing and treating problems, and promoting biodiversity to create a healthy habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

(TouchWood Editions, \$15.00 pb, 160 pages, with full-colour images throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77151-392-0, available as ebook)

YOUR BRAIN ON PREGNANCY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY

Dawn Kingston

This enlightening and practical guidebook, based on cutting-edge science, helps mothers navigate mental health challenges during and after pregnancy, taking readers through the three most common mental health struggles – anxiety, depression, and toxic stress – and sharing strategies to manage them.

(Simon & Schuster Canada, \$26.99 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9821-4337-4)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

DRINK IN THE SUMMER: A MEMOIR OF CROATIA

Tony Fabijančić

This record of Fabijančić's travels to Yugoslavia and Croatia, the homeland of his father – where he spent time with his peasant family in the village of Srebrnjak in the north and escaped to the Adriatic islands in the south – describes the changes in communities from the 1970s to more recent times.

(Athabasca University Press, \$29.99 pb, 208 pages, with photographs, ISBN: 978-1-77199-380-7, available as ebook)

HOW TO CLEAN A FISH AND OTHER ADVENTURES IN PORTUGAL

Esmeralda Cabral

When her husband takes a sabbatical in Portugal, Cabral is only too happy to spend eight months with him and their daughter, their dog, and later their son in the country of her birth, to enjoy sunshine and fresh fish, and to discover a culture that is not quite what she remembers. And readers

will be only too happy to share in their adventures.

(University of Alberta Press, \$27.99 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-655-6, available as ebook)

THE TRAUMA BEAT: A CASE FOR RE-THINKING THE BUSINESS OF BAD NEWS

Tamara Cherry

In this book that is part memoir and part investigative journalism, former crime reporter and current survivor advocate Cherry examines the impact of the media on trauma survivors and the impact of trauma – murders, traffic fatalities, mass violence – on members of the media, exposing a system set up to fail both groups of people.

(ECW Press, \$26.95 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-686-4, available as ebook)

THE TURCOTTES: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF A HORSE RACING DYNASTY

Curtis Stock

This year is the 50th anniversary of Secretariat's historic Triple Crown victory, and the jockey who rode him was Ron Turcotte. Four other Turcottes – Noel, Rudy, Roger, and Yves – followed their older brother into the winner's circles of North American racetracks, and this book tells their remarkable journey from a small lumberjack town in New Brunswick to the top of the thoroughbred racing world, including not only all of their successes, but also their challenges and heartbreaks along the way.

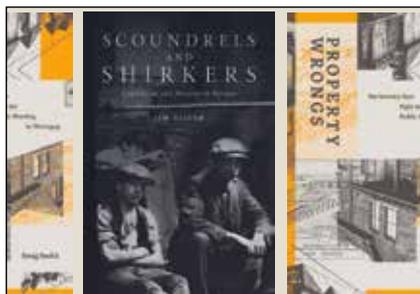
(Firefly Books, \$35.00 hc, 368 pages, with full-colour and b/w photos, ISBN: 978-0-22810-424-7)

WHO GETS IN: AN IMMIGRATION STORY

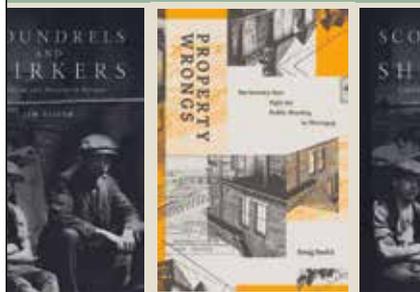
Norman Ravvin

In this deeply personal and thoroughly researched memoir, Ravvin tells the story of his grandfather's escape from persecution and the rise of Nazism in Poland. Yehuda Yosef Eisenstein arrived in Canada in 1930, claiming to be single in order to be granted entry, and leaving his wife and children behind, trusting that they would be able to follow once he was established.

(University of Regina Press, 272 pages, with archival images throughout, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: \$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-922-8 ; available as ebook)



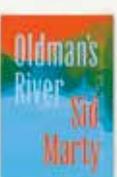
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(University of Calgary Press,

\$36.99 pb, 508 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-416-8, available as ebook)

BORDERBLUR POETICS: INTERMEDIA AND AVANT-GARDISM IN CANADA, 1963–1988

Eric Schmaltz

This book traces the emergence and proliferation of the "borderblur" poetic practice of a loose group of like-minded Canadian poets who challenged the conventions of writing and poetic meaning by using strategies from visual art, sound art, sculpture, installation, and performance.

(University of Calgary Press, 320 pages, \$74.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-456-4; \$39.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-457-1; available as ebook)

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH: BUILDING CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMONS

Edited by Patricia E. Perkins

In this volume, scholars, climate activists, community educators, and teachers come together to share their stories of participatory research, collective action, and equitable community engagement, as they work toward climate justice.

(University of Calgary Press, 320 pages, with illustrations, \$69.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-466-3; \$39.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-407-6; available as ebook)

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Brandon Doucet

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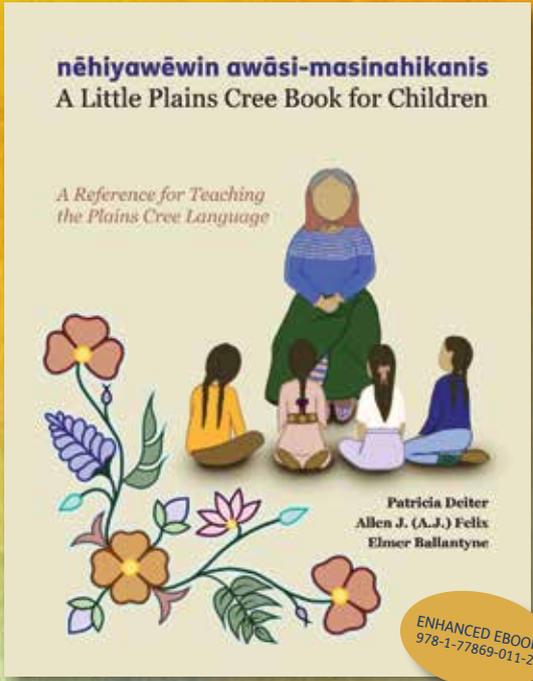
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



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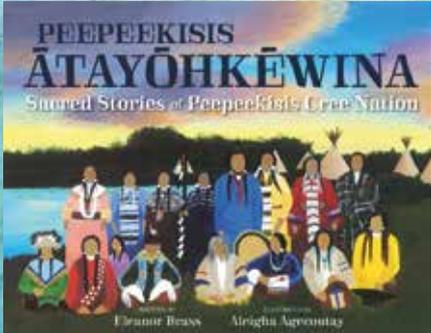
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(University of Toronto Press, \$70.00 hc, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0955-2, available as ebook)

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Jason Aaron Brown

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(University of Toronto Press, \$125.00 hc, 624 pages, with b/w illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-4875-4594-9, available as ebook)

UNSETTLED: LORD SELKIRK'S SCOTTISH COLONISTS AND THE BATTLE FOR CANADA'S WEST, 1813–1816

Robert Lower

Relying on journals, reports, and letters, this book tells the fascinating story of 200 Highlanders who flee the Scottish Clearances in 1813 to establish a settlement in what is now Winnipeg, under the sponsorship of the Earl of Selkirk.

(ECW Press, \$29.95 pb, 400 pages, with b/w and colour illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77041-718-2, available as ebook)

JackPine provides support, collaboration to create ‘beautiful and unusual’ chapbooks

Saskatoon-based publisher’s board considers each project’s unique needs

by Ian Goodwillie

Publishing poetry is a world within a world. Some consider poetry as close to visual art as can be found in literature. Saskatoon’s JackPine Press takes poetry (and some prose) even closer by publishing chapbooks in which the melding of form and function, words and design, is virtually seamless.

A chapbook from JackPine is a piece of art on its own before the reader even takes in the first word. The text informs the design of the book, and each publication is a limited edition, making it a sought-after commodity, a high-end literary collectible meant to be read, viewed, and treasured.

JackPine Press was founded in 2002 by a devoted group of poets and publishers – Tim Lilburn, Sheri

Benning, Jennifer Still, Heather Benning, Rosalie Benning, and Helen Marzolf – and has since published more than 70 hand-bound chapbooks written and designed by Canadian creators. It is currently run as a non-profit organization with an executive board and an editorial board of volunteers.

While predominantly a poetry press, JackPine will also consider excellent prose that fits within the

limits of a chapbook (typically 10 to 48 pages). Short fiction, memoir, comics, and essays are all possible.

Recent publications include *Intimacies*, poems and photographs by Michelle Poirier Brown, designed by Patrice Snopkowski, and *Lines of Demarcation*, pandemic-influenced poems about societal divisions, by Lina



Ramona Vitkauskas, with a map for navigating the poems by Brendan Lorber. Past publications have been recognized by the Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design and the bpNichol Chapbook Award.

Delane Just, the current executive director, is enthusiastic about the work that JackPine does. She says the publisher is “all about bringing a creative chapbook vision to life! The more inventive and creative the project, the more intrigued we are! We love chapbook concepts that seamlessly blend visual/physical design concepts with beautiful poetry or prose.”



A chapbook from JackPine is a piece of art on its own before the reader even takes in the first word.

“It’s really important ... that we create conditions wherein people are emerging stronger poets, stronger artists, and going on to make more beautiful things.” Aimee Martens

Aimee Martens, a member of the executive board of directors, explains how the press makes these creative projects happen. “We create opportunities for poets and artists to make unique handmade chapbooks themselves. Submissions selected receive funding, editing help, coaching, advice, and other support from our board members.”

This blend of support and autonomy is not typical of most publishers. JackPine Press, however, is not a typical publisher but a board-driven organization, with each volunteer bringing something different to the table. That collaborative effort unfolds every time they work together.

“Every project is the board coming together, working through that project’s unique needs, finding the person/people best equipped to help, and working to put the skills and

knowledge we have into the hands of the project creators,” Martens says.

Just agrees and expands on Martens’s point: “The uniqueness of each chapbook means that every project has unique needs too. That’s where our talented executive board and editorial board are both crucial.”

The power of JackPine’s board members as a resource should not be underestimated. The selection process is also tailored to the project, and so quite flexible.

“We have an admissions process, and it is occasionally followed,” says Martens. “But generally, poets are reaching out to us, and saying, ‘I have this idea for a chapbook!’ And that’s the first step, that’s what we do. We can bring your idea to life.”

Just knows what the JackPine team is looking for.

“We love to see innovative and fresh writing!” she says. “I personally love a unique poetic voice and an attention to how the poems/prose and the design both play a part in emphasizing the chapbook’s primary themes and creative vision.”

Martens also emphasizes the extent to which book design factors into those decisions. The artistic vision has to convey something special to everyone involved. “We exist for poets and artists who want this opportunity to make something beautiful and unusual,” she says.



As for the future, both Martens and Just want JackPine to stay the course.

Martens, in particular, sees the publisher’s namesake tree as an inspiration for more than just a name. “The Jack pine, in nature, is what’s called a nurse tree. It can survive harsh conditions and creates habitable terrain around itself to foster the growth of other, stronger types of trees. It’s really important for us to stay true to that idea, that we create conditions wherein people are emerging stronger poets, stronger artists, and going on to make more beautiful things.”

Just echoes that, saying, “Our goal has always been the same: bring to life the unique creative visions of our authors and artists.” 🌲



Children's book offers message of hope, unconditional support in depiction of depression

Illustrator used symbolic imagery, included many details to entertain young readers

by Laura McKay

DARK CLOUD

Anna Lazowski

Illustrated by Penny Neville-Lee

Kids Can Press

\$21.99 hc, 32 pages

ISBN: 978-1-5253-0657-0

Winnipeg-based Anna Lazowski's latest book for children, *Dark Cloud*, is a springboard for conversations about mental health and illness, particularly depression.

"We don't talk about mental health enough, and I think the pandemic has forced us to acknowledge that," says Lazowski. "The more we talk about these feelings, and normalize that it's okay to not be okay, the better it will be for everyone."

With whimsical illustrations and lyrical text, this book is already sparking conversations. Lazowski has seen early reviews from people saying that the book helped them discuss their own diagnosis with their child. She says, "These are big, abstract topics, and we need more ways to make them accessible to kids and families."

Mental health is a topic that hits close to home for the author. With her daughter's permission, Lazowski shares what happened after her daughter began a new allergy medication: "She withdrew, she developed strange responses to innocuous things, and she stopped smiling. My always happy, lively kid disappeared. We made the connection, took her off the medication, and got help, but it took almost a year for her to fully recover."

This experience inspired *Dark Cloud*, and the character Abigail, a little girl with a dark cloud that follows her and takes different forms as she tries to attend ballet class, celebrate her birthday, and enjoy a day at the beach.

Lazowski enlisted the help of a critique partner who is a clinical psychologist to ensure that she treated this topic

with sensitivity, and she was careful with her portrayal of depression.

"I used a lot of symbolic imagery so the emotions would have a visual presence," she says. "When I was writing, I thought about what the symptoms of depression look like and wrote the text to match those images."

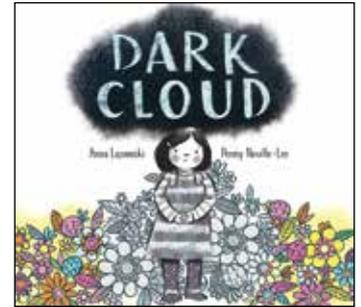
The illustrations are equally thoughtful. Artist Penny Neville-Lee, who lives in Manchester, U.K., uses a tangled ball of worries, a swirling fog, and a long shadow to bring Abigail's emotional experience to life. However, she also made sure to include other elements for young readers to enjoy.

"I am a big fan of details in picture books," she says. "The majority of children enjoying this book will be being read to, rather than reading it themselves, so I made sure there was plenty to look at. My favourite page from the book is one where Abigail visits her local library. I had a lot of fun designing all of the posters on the noticeboard and hiding spiders under the floorboards."

Neville-Lee chose muted, colourless tones to illuminate Abigail's struggle, with moments of colour increasing as those around Abigail reach out to support her. "We see Abigail learn to understand and live with her cloud, and still find moments of happiness," explains Lazowski.

The quiet message of hope and unconditional support is what sets this book apart, giving children and their families a way to help their loved ones without adding to their struggle.

Ultimately, both Lazowski and Neville-Lee hope the book will strike a chord with those who need it. In her author's note, Lazowski writes that she hopes this book "helps anyone with their own dark cloud understand that they're not alone." 🌿



Anna Lazowski



Penny Neville-Lee

First book of fantasy quintet shares diversity in gender and species while honouring found family

S. M. Beiko showcases struggles of difference between townspeople and human-loving spider

by Kim Uduman

THE STARS OF MOUNT QUIXX

The Brindlewatch Quintet, Book One

S. M. Beiko

ECW Press

\$22.95 pb, 312 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77041-695-6

Available as an ebook

The Stars of Mount Quixx is the fascinating and fantastical first book of the new Brindlewatch Quintet by S. M. Beiko. The narrative follows the Ivyweather sisters, two outsiders, forced into spending their summer vacation in the always foggy town Quixx, built on the slope of a mountain rumoured to be filled with monsters.

Constance, the older sister, is a perfectionist and finds the real world stressful enough, whereas her younger sister, Ivory, is more than happy to climb the mountain and discover its secrets.

“I definitely feel like both Constance and Ivory are representations of me. I have Ivory’s spirit for adventure and dreaming, but I deal with anxiety like Constance does,” says Beiko. “No person is ever truly ‘one thing,’ and I love how they play off of one other. They’re stronger together, that’s for sure.”

Beiko, a Winnipeg-based author, artist, and editor, found herself making stories and drawing characters back in high school. She created the beginnings of the world of Brindlewatch – inspired by fairy tales and Tim Burton’s work – after she wrote her first book *The Lake and the Library* back in 2006. After publishing that novel in 2013, Beiko wanted to re-explore the earlier characters and let them tell their stories.

“I had interesting characters, but no real plan for them,” she says, “and after writing 100 pages, lost the plot (literally). I tucked the book away in a drawer.”

In between books of her YA trilogy, *The Realms of Ancient*, Beiko, who now had “better methods for

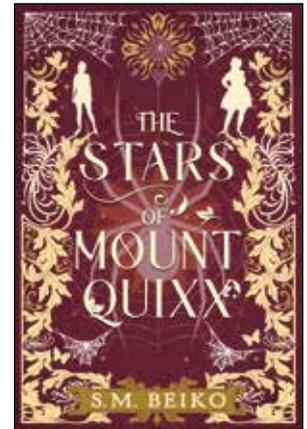
developing stories” and a “more practised voice,” decided to develop the plot of the two sisters in Quixx, and an engaging plot it is.

Shortly after arriving, Ivory mysteriously vanishes, leaving it up to Constance to bring her back to safety. On her rescue mission, she meets Derrek, a Mount Quixx monster who is a kind of “friendly spider professor,” passionate about removing the fog that has stunted the town’s growth. The sisters agree to help Derrek get back the night sky for the townspeople.

Many of the characters featured in this first Brindlewatch book are diverse in not only species, but also gender. Beiko, identifying as bisexual, deems it important to represent the LGBTQ2IA+ identities and relationships in media, and so features several queer characters: lesbian, gay, trans, non-binary, and more. “They are blatant and discussed, but the plot doesn’t hinge on them,” she says. “It was important to me to represent LGBTQ2IA+ identity and relationships as ‘normal’ and just simply part of the tapestry of community, in both Quixx the town as well as the creatures of the mountain.”

Celebrating the concept of “found family” is also important to Beiko. “Friendship and companions outside of familial bonds are often just as, or arguably more, important than the family we are born into,” she says. “All of the protagonists – Constance, Ivory, Derrek, even the monsters of Mount Quixx – are stronger when they are supported by one another, despite whatever differences there may be or challenges they’re going through.

“Isolationism breeds unwarranted contempt, and only when communities can come together without prejudice can the ‘fog’ be cleared.” 🌿



S. M. Beiko

MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

PICTURE BOOKS

CRESCENT MOON FRIENDS

Wadia Samadi and Mo Duffy Cobb, illustrated by Lisa Lypowy

Two best friends, Amelia and Aisha, come from very different worlds, with one from Canada and the other from Afghanistan. Family conversations about traditions and language bring the girls closer together in this book that helps children understand the cultural backgrounds of others.

(Acorn Press, \$22.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77366-096-7)

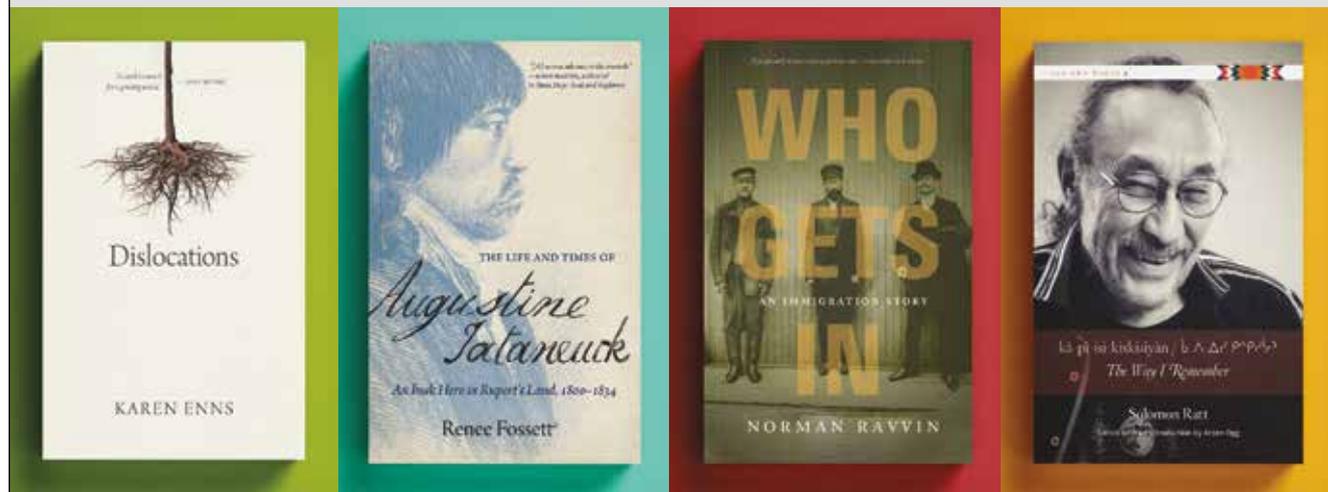
GORDIE'S SKATE

Bill Waiser, illustrated by Leanne Franson

This delightfully illustrated book tells of how hockey legend Gordie Howe, in Saskatchewan during the Great Depression, learned to skate, wearing (first only one, but eventually both) oversized



CELEBRATING TEN YEARS ON THE BOOKS



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creative
SASKATCHEWAN

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skates that his mother bought from a neighbour who badly needed money. (ThistleDown Press, \$14.95 pb, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-235-5)

GRETEL AND HANSEL

Bee Waeland

This wordless book with illustrations that use geometric shapes and bold colours retells the fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel with a twist – the witch is friendly and the children take advantage of her hospitality. (Orca Book Publishers, \$19.95 hc, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3382-1, available as ebook)

IVY'S WILD DREAM

Celine Peloquin

Ivy is a curious baby, and the forest, lake, and other natural Manitoba surroundings – the alfalfa, the loon, the bark of the trees – all stimulate her interest and imagination. (Tellwell Talent, 32 pages, \$52.42 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2288852-5-2; \$26.08 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2288852-4-8)

LOLA'S WOOLLY JUMPER

Samantha Van De Kerckhove

Lola the lamb admires Farmer Joe's woolly jumper and is delighted to discover she can make her own, starting with growing the wool herself! (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-006-8)

LUCY TRIES BASEBALL

Lisa Bowes, illustrated by James Hearne

In this latest in the Lucy Tries Sports series, Lucy learns the basics of baseball, starting with playing catch with her family, and then playing on a team where she is coached and encouraged to field, hit, and run the bases. The book includes Fast Facts about baseball.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$14.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3494-1, available as ebook)

WAKING BEN DOLDRUMS

Heather Smith, illustrated by

Byron Eggenschwiler

University student Ben Doldrums becomes too tired and depressed to take part in the morning wake-up routine of his neighbours in their four-apartment building. After some investigation and

deep thought, young Frida Bellows comes up with a way to help him.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3391-3, available as ebook)

EARLY YEARS FICTION

BEWARE THE MOONLIGHT!

SPOOKY SLEUTHS, BOOK 2

Natasha Deen, illustrated by Lissy Marlin

In this spooky adventure, a full moon is coming as Asim, Rokshar, and Max prepare for a moon unit at school. But Mr. Maan, an astrophysicist at the lab, appears just when scary lights and explosions in the forest are seen, and he can control people's minds. Is he a rogue scientist doing unauthorized research, or is he a supernatural Moon-Gazer?

(Random House Books for Young Readers-PRH, 112 pages, \$17.99 hc, ISBN: 978-0-593-48891-1; \$9.50 pb, ISBN: 978-0-593-48890-4; available as ebook and audiobook)

DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER,

SPOOKY SLEUTHS, BOOK 3

Natasha Deen, illustrated by Lissy Marlin

The water surrounding the island is just as spooky as Lion's Gate, the town on it. And the woman Asim and his friends see in the water who is luring Asim's father and Max's uncle into the ocean – is she a spy from a rival research lab experimenting with harmful algae blooms or is she a fairmaid, a type of Caribbean mermaid?

(Random House Books for Young Readers-PRH, 112 pages, \$17.99 hc, ISBN: 978-0-593-48894-2; \$9.50 pb, ISBN: 978-0-593-48893-5; available as ebook and audiobook)

FIRE IN THE SKY, SPOOKY SLEUTHS, BOOK 4

Natasha Deen, illustrated by Lissy Marlin

Max is in danger, and – whether it's from a supernatural being like a witch or a scientist experimenting on kids – Asim and Rokshar have to save him, even while they are being attacked by fireballs!

(Random House Books for Young Readers-PRH, 112 pages, \$17.99 hc, ISBN: 978-0-593-48897-3; \$9.50 pb, ISBN: 978-0-593-48896-6; available as ebook and audiobook)

THE GHOST TREE, SPOOKY SLEUTHS, BOOK 1

Natasha Deen, illustrated by Lissy Marlin

In this new series about supernatural beings based on Guyanese folklore, Asim has just moved to the spookiest town in the world so his parents can work in a lab where all projects are top secret. He makes a new friend, the science-loving Rokshar, and together with her brothers and another friend Max, they investigate a mysterious and scary tree in the cemetery. (Random House Books for Young Readers-PRH, 112 pages, \$17.99 hc, ISBN: 978-0-593-48888-1; \$9.50 pb, ISBN: 978-0-593-48887-4; available as ebook and audiobook)

MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

THE CURIOUS MISADVENTURES OF

KITTY THE CAT

Marie-Renée Lavoie

This story centres on a cat that wanders away from his mom and siblings to be found in a forest by a little girl. She takes him to the city, where he meets Prémarché, the big cat of the alley; the spiders of the special arachno-intervention unit; Billy, the nice neighbour; and the parents of the little girl. But the cat still wants to find his mother, and he finds a gull to help.

(Yellow Dog-Great Plains Publications, \$14.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-097-2)

THE GHOSTS OF SPIRITWOOD

Martine Noël-Maw

Originally published in French, and now available in this English translation by the author, this novel tells the story, in Ethan's voice, of five teenagers who are stranded in an old abandoned one-room schoolhouse in northern Saskatchewan for a weekend, where they encounter two ghosts – one who needs help, and one who wants to prevent them from giving it. (Shadowpaw Press, \$17.99 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-62-3, available as ebook)

IZZY AT THE END OF THE WORLD

K. A. Reynolds

In this adventure novel, 14-year-old Izzy, who is autistic, feels like it's the end of the world ever since her mother died. Then one night, mysterious lights flash and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

everyone, except Izzy and her dog, Akka, has disappeared. Together they battle monsters and decode cryptic messages to uncover the truth and save the world. (HarperCollins Canada, \$21.00 hc, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3584-6777-9, available as ebook and audiobook)

MORTIMER: RAT RACE TO SPACE

Joan Marie Galat

How does a lab rat become a space rat? Mortimer has to find out, so that he can join the International Space Station and show the world how much better suited to space life and exploration rats are than people. Along the way he learns something about the importance of friendship. (DCB-Cormorant Books, \$13.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-653-9, available as ebook)

PEANUT BUTTER AND PANDEMONIUM, BOOK 2 IN THE MYTHIC ADVENTURES OF SAMUEL TEMPLETON

Anita Daher

Sam's magical powers, courtesy of a lightning strike and his mother's Icelandic heritage, are growing, and he will need them to face his destiny – as the Son of the Solstice, Sam is destined to fight an ancient sorcerer, and to save the world while he's at it.

(Yellow Dog-Great Plains Publications, \$14.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-099-6)

THE PROBABILITY OF EVERYTHING

Sarah Everett

Eleven-year-old Kemi loves scientific facts, especially probability, so when an asteroid is hovering and there is an 84.7 per cent chance that it will collide with Earth in four days, Kemi takes action to ensure that the everyday truth of her family will be available to people of the future world. (Clarion Books-HarperCollins, \$23.99 hc, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-0-0632-5655-2)

SIXTIES GIRL

MaryLou Driedger

Will's grandmother is a great storyteller, and a famous children's book author. On his weekly visits, she tells him stories of her youth, growing up during the 1960s – stories about the strict nuns at

her school, of a car that crashed into the neighbour's living room, of a trek through the deep snow to the hospital to save her brother, reciting poetry all the way, and many more.

(Wandering Fox-Heritage House, \$14.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77203-435-6)

THE UMBRELLA HOUSE

Colleen Nelson

Ruby and Scout are going to put their video-making skills to work to enter a competition, and they've chosen their East Village neighbourhood and the threat of gentrification as the issue they want to draw attention to. During her research, Ruby discovers information about the enigmatic Midnight Muralist, which could be the key to saving her historic apartment building, Umbrella House.

(Pajama Press, \$23.95 hc, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77278-279-0)

MIDDLE YEARS NON-FICTION

GET OUT AND VOTE! HOW YOU CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE

Elizabeth MacLeod, illustrated by Emily Chu

Part of the Orca Think series, this book introduces readers to government systems and voting practices around the world, and to the importance of voting to making necessary changes in the world. The book includes interesting facts in sidebars, a glossary, resources, and an index.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$24.95 hc, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2845-2, available as ebook)

MALALA SPEAKS OUT

Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Yael

Frankel, translated by Susan Ouriou, commentary by Clara Fons Duocastella

The Speak Out series publishes inspiring speeches and deconstructs them to give young readers a deep understanding of global issues. This book features Malala's acceptance speech upon being the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in which she tells her story of defending girls' right to education, despite attacks from the Taliban.

(Groundwood Books, \$14.99 hc, 56 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77306-916-6, available as ebook)

TOO MUCH TRASH: HOW LITTER IS HURTING ANIMALS

Joan Marie Galat

Part of the Orca Footprints series, this book, illustrated with photographs throughout, examines how garbage – everything from chewing gum to medical masks to even food waste – hurts animals of all kinds everywhere. Galat challenges readers to fix the problem. The book includes a glossary, resources, and an index.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3182-7, available as ebook)

YA FICTION

BUFFALO FLATS

Martine Leavitt

In this stunning love letter to the land and to community, 17-year-old Rebecca homesteads with her family who came from Utah to the North-West Territories. An independent-minded girl, she decides she wants to own the piece of land that has become special to her, so she sets out to earn enough money – selling butter and eggs, making bonnets, even helping her mother with midwife work, and finally, cooking for the workers building a canal. (Groundwood Books, \$19.99 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77306-202-0, available as ebook)

CROW STONE

Gabriele Goldstone

The sequel to *Tainted Amber* is set at the beginning of 1945, when Katya, together with hundreds of German women, desperately tries to escape East Prussia as the Red Army invades Germany. Her ability to talk Russian and act as a translator helps her to a point, but a Soviet forced labour camp cannot be avoided. (Ronsdale Press, \$18.95 pb, 260 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55380-665-3, available as ebook)

Des nouvelles qui partagent des moments poétiques ornés de touches de réalité

Lise Gaboury-Diallo explore des voix et des dialogues liés par un fil d'optimisme

par Liz Katynski

JUSTE UNE MOITIÉ DE LUNE

Lise Gaboury-Diallo

Les Éditions du Blé

21,95 \$ papier, 180 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924915-72-1

Disponible en livre numérique

Juste une moitié de lune, un nouveau recueil de nouvelles de Lise Gaboury-Diallo, prend son titre d'un moment dans une de ses histoires. Une personne observe par la fenêtre une moitié de lune, une image incomplète mais pourtant parfaite en soi.

« C'est un moment de poésie », dit Gaboury-Diallo, l'auteure de plusieurs recueils de nouvelles, de poésie et de théâtre. « Juste une moitié de lune, mais parfaite dans son incomplétude. »

Ce sont des histoires pleines de moments de poésie. « J'ai une sensibilité aux images, la richesse et le potentiel du style poétique », dit-elle. « Je suis très attentive à ce que le text soit visible. »

C'est de la fiction avec des bribes de réalité, un certain réalisme. À peu près 90 pour cent des personnages n'ont pas de spécificité et c'est impossible de localiser les lieux, alors l'histoire devient universelle.

Une histoire se déroule en Afrique. Une autre qui semble se passer en Ukraine d'aujourd'hui, a été écrite, bien avant que la guerre soit déclenchée, et une autre a lieu dans l'Hispanosphere (la culture et la société hispanique).

Pour s'inspirer, la francophone se souvient de son enfance à Winnipeg, du temps qu'elle a vécu en Afrique, au Sénégal et au Mali, ainsi que de ses jours en France pour son doctorat. Maintenant, elle est professeure de



Short stories share poetic moments through fiction with bits of reality woven in

Lise Gaboury-Diallo explores voices, dialogue tied together by thread of optimism

by Liz Katynski

JUSTE UNE MOITIÉ DE LUNE

Lise Gaboury-Diallo

Les Éditions du Blé

\$21.95 pb, 180 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924915-72-1

Available as an ebook

Juste une moitié de lune, the new collection of short stories by Lise Gaboury-Diallo, takes its title from a moment in one of its stories. A person looks out the window to see a half-moon, observing an incomplete image but also a perfect one.

“It’s a poetic moment,” says Gaboury-Diallo, the author of a number of short story collections, poetry collections, and theatre works. “Just a half-moon, incomplete but perfect.”

These are stories full of poetic moments. “I am very sensitive to imagery, the richness and the potential of the poetic style,” she says. “I take great care to ensure the text is visual.”

The stories are fiction with bits of reality woven in. Most of the characters are loosely identified. There are few specifics to define them or their location, creating a sense of universality.

One story takes place in Africa. Another happens in what could easily be assumed is today’s Ukraine, but it was written well before the current conflict began. Instead, Gaboury-Diallo imagined it would take place in the Hispanosphere (Hispanic culture and society).

To evoke the places, the francophone remembered her childhood in Winnipeg, the time she lived in Africa – in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47

VIENNENT DE PARAITRE EN FRANÇAIS

ANNIE ET TOM DU LUNDI AU VENDREDI

Amber O'Reilly

Annie et Tom sont un jeune couple qui connaît des difficultés financières et émotives. Ils sont mécontents de leur sort et hésitent à s'engager plus avant l'un envers l'autre. La présence de Dixie, l'assistante virtuelle de Tom, vient compliquer les choses. Annie and Tom are a young couple experiencing financial and emotional difficulties. They are unhappy with their lot and hesitant in their communications with each other. The presence of Dixie, the virtual assistant on Tom's cell phone, is complicating things. (Éditions du Blé, théâtre, 17,95 \$ papier, 90 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-81-3)

LA FILLE DU FACTEUR

Josée Thibeault

Le récit de la vie d'une jeune artiste québécoise, fille d'un père facteur, à l'esprit sédentaire, atteint d'un cancer au cerveau. Animée par le besoin vital de marcher, de vivre sa poésie, elle raconte sans maniérisme, mais avec humour et pudeur, la maladie de son père et le tracé de sa propre existence. A young Québécois artist, the daughter of a postman with brain cancer, tells her humble story with humour. (Éditions du Blé, récit poétique et théâtral, 19,95 \$ papier, 106 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-75-2)

L'ICONIQUE ESPLANADE RIEL : VOIE MAJESTUEUSE SUR LA RIVIÈRE ROUGE

Étienne Gaboury et Joanne Therrien
Photographies de Michel Grandmaison

Le beau livre *L'Iconique Esplanade Riel* retrace l'histoire des ponts de Saint-Boniface et de Winnipeg depuis 1882. Les clichés contemporains du photographe primé, Michel Grandmaison, viennent compléter les photos d'archives et les pans

d'histoire présentés par l'auteure Therrien. This beautiful coffee table book traces the history of the bridges of St. Boniface and Winnipeg since 1882. Contemporary photographs by Michel Grandmaison complement the archival photos and the history written by Therrien. (Vidacom, beau livre, 35,00 \$ lc, 64 pages, ISBN : 978-1-77461-017-6)

L'INNOCENT

Margot Joli

Dans cette troisième enquête du caporal Trudel de la GRC, le squelette d'un bébé est découvert sur une ferme située en bordure d'un village. Les injustices et l'opprobre subis par les « filles-mères » dans les années 1960 sont au cœur de cette intrigue signée par l'autrice manitobaine. In this third book in the mystery series about RCMP Corporal Trudel, the skeleton of a baby is discovered on a farm just outside of town. Injustice and shame suffered by a single mother in the 1960s are at the heart of the intrigue. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, roman, 22,00 \$ papier, 320 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-96-0)

NOÉ ET GRAND-OURS : UNE AVENTURE AU NUNAVUT QUEL CIRQUE!

Danielle S. Marcotte

Illustrations par Francesca Da Sacco
La célèbre école de cirque de la communauté du Grand Nord canadien d'Igloulik a besoin d'une cargaison importante. Noé, le petit hydravion, et Grand-Ours, son pilote, viendront à la rescousse. The celebrated circus school in the Far North community of Igloulik needs some important cargo. Noé, a little seaplane, and his pilot, Grand-Ours, come to the rescue. (Éditions des Plaines, album jeunesse, 12,95 \$ papier, 40 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-865-6)

SUITES

J. R. Léveillé

Un texte expérimental, structuré en deux grandes parties dont la particularité est d'assembler une « suite » de fragments, de pensée, de savoirs et de digressions philosophiques sur la religion, l'écriture et l'art, rythmés de scènes de vie quotidienne pendant un été que le narrateur passe à Ganiishomong, au bord du lac Manitoba, « en congé » avec sa compagne Sylvia et la chienne Bouddha. This experimental text, written while on vacation on the shores of Lake Manitoba, is structured into two sections, each made up of a suite of fragments, thoughts, bits of knowledge, and philosophical digressions on religion, writing, and art.

(Éditions du Blé, roman, 24,95 \$ papier, 264 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-78-3)

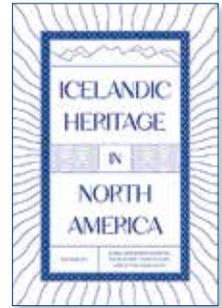
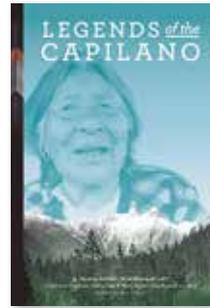
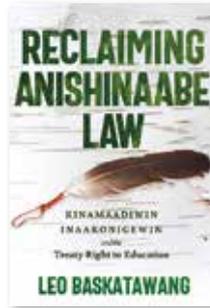
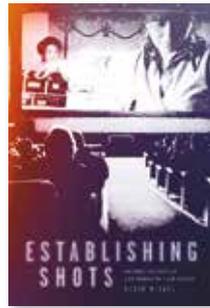
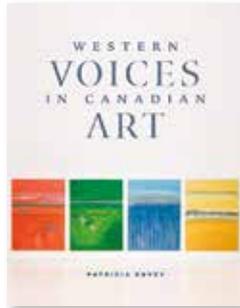
LES URBAINS

David Baudemont

Passant du théâtre au roman, de la chanson à l'aquarelle, l'auteur et artiste visuel Baudemont établit des ponts temporels et géographiques entre l'enfance et l'âge adulte. Sa plume se balade ainsi de ville en ville, grande ou petite, qu'il nous présente en mots et en images. Using drama, fiction, songs, and watercolours, author and visual artist Baudemont builds bridges across time and space, from his childhood to adulthood, in towns large and small, with his words and images.

(Éditions de la nouvelle plume, essais littéraires et illustrations, 38,00 \$ papier, 88 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-93-9)

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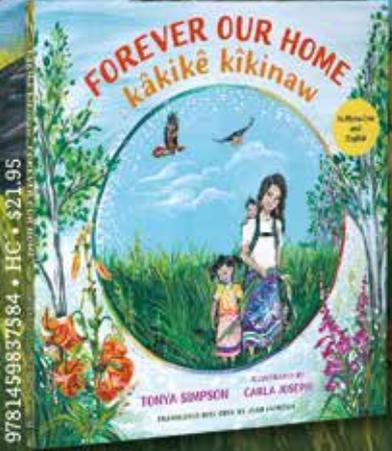


WELCOME HOME

Picture books for readers who belong to the Prairies



Dual-language
Indigenous
picture books by
Prairie authors
& illustrators



“Depicts expanses of breathtakingly beautiful landscapes in all the seasons.”—Booklist

Un conte jeunesse qui se déroule en Saskatchewan, avec un petit chien cosmonaute et une géologue de la NASA

D'après Martine Noël-Maw : il faut que les jeunes puissent se reconnaître dans leur littérature

par Lucien Chaput

LAÏKA, OÙ ES-TU?

Collection eSKapade, no 13

Martine Noël-Maw

Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume

14,95 \$ papier, 120 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924237-97-7

Les Badlands d'Avonlea en Saskatchewan. Une petite chienne en costume de cosmonaute. Une géologue de la NASA. Voilà quelques éléments de *Laïka, où es-tu?*, le septième titre de Martine Noël-Maw dans la collection littérature jeunesse eSKapade des Éditions de la nouvelle plume.

La collection eSKapade est un projet visant à encourager la lecture chez les jeunes. « Il est difficile de faire lire les jeunes », dit Noël-Maw. « C'est encore plus difficile de faire lire les jeunes en français en milieu minoritaire. »

Elle poursuit : « Il n'y avait vraiment rien qui se passait ici auquel les gens pouvaient s'identifier et dont ils connaissent les noms, les lieux. Je me suis fait un point d'honneur que toutes les histoires se passeraient en Saskatchewan. C'est Regina, c'est Moose Jaw, c'est Spiritwood. Je tenais absolument à ce que les jeunes puissent se reconnaître et s'identifier. »

Ce printemps a été occupé pour Noël-Maw qui était aussi directrice générale des Éditions de la nouvelle plume de Regina. *The Ghosts of Spiritwood*, la traduction



Young adult tale takes place in Saskatchewan, with a little cosmonaut dog and a NASA geologist

Martine Noël-Maw believes young people need to be able to recognize themselves in their literature

by Lucien Chaput

LAÏKA, OÙ ES-TU?

eSKapade Collection, no. 13

Martine Noël-Maw

Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume

\$14.95 pb, 120 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924237-97-7

The Avonlea Badlands in Saskatchewan. A little dog in a cosmonaut costume. A NASA geologist. Those are some elements of *Laïka, où es-tu?*, Martine Noël-Maw's seventh title in the Éditions de la nouvelle plume eSKapade young adult collection.

The eSKapade collection is a project aimed at encouraging reading among young people. "It's hard to get young people to read," says Noël-Maw. "It is even more difficult to get young people to read in French in a minority setting."

She continues, "There really wasn't anything in the books that people could relate to, the names of people, the names of places. I made it a point of honour that all the stories would take place in Saskatchewan. It's Regina, it's Moose Jaw, it's Spiritwood. I absolutely wanted young people to be able to recognize and identify with one another."

It's been a busy spring for the former executive director of the Regina publisher Éditions de la nouvelle plume. *The Ghosts of Spiritwood*, the English translation she did of her young adult novel,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

anglaise qu'elle a faite de son roman jeunesse, *Les fantômes de Spiritwood*, vient d'être publié par Shadowpaw Press de Regina.

Laïka, où es-tu? est le fruit de six ateliers de création avec 22 élèves de cinquième année de l'École Monseigneur de Laval de Regina. « J'arrive avec strictement rien », dit Noël-Maw, « sauf que l'histoire va se passer quelque part en Saskatchewan. Les jeunes proposent des personnages, avec les décors qui viennent avec ça. » Ça s'est assez rapidement dirigé vers les Badlands et le parc des prairies.

« Les jeunes peuvent écrire, ils peuvent dessiner, ils peuvent jouer », dit-elle. « Un des dessins était de Laïka en habit de cosmonaute. Laïka, c'était cette petite chienne soviétique qui avait été envoyée dans l'espace. Les Soviétiques n'avaient pas dit aux gens qu'elle mourrait soit de chaleur, ou d'arrêt cardiaque, ou de faim. Quand ça a été su qu'elle était morte, qu'ils savaient dès le départ qu'elle allait mourir, les mouvements de revendications des droits des animaux ont commencé. »

Monsieur Chèvre a été une victime humaine d'un genre de pratique semblable. Le charlatan qui a fait des expériences sur lui en lui greffant des pattes de chèvre. « Il y a de beaux dessins de ce bonhomme-là », dit Noël-Maw. Ces dessins-là, on les a refilés au graphiste qui en faire la page couverture.

Les décors locaux et les personnages créés par les élèves donnent des histoires qui résonnent chez les jeunes lecteurs.

« Quand on écrit, on veut que le lecteur y croit », conclut Noël-Maw. « Dans *La Malchance d'Austin*, le premier roman que j'ai fait pour cette collection, un petit gars de Moose Jaw se fait greffer une jambe bionique. Il lui arrive toutes sortes d'aventures pendant qu'il est à l'hôpital Shriners à Montréal. J'ai présenté ce roman partout à travers le pays. Et il y a toujours eu quelqu'un dans chaque classe qui m'a demandé s'il pouvait rencontrer Austin. Parce que pour eux, c'est vrai. » 🌿



Martine Noël-Maw

Les fantômes de Spiritwood, has just been published by Regina-based Shadowpaw Press.

Laïka, où es-tu? is the result of six creative workshops with 22 fifth-grade students from École Monseigneur de Laval in Regina. “I come with absolutely nothing,” Noël-Maw says, “except that the story is going to take place somewhere in Saskatchewan. The young people propose characters, with the settings that come with that.” It went pretty quickly to the Badlands and the Prairie parkland.

“The students could write, they could draw, they could play,” she says. “One of the drawings was of Laïka dressed as a cosmonaut. Laïka was this little Soviet dog who had been sent into space. The Soviets hadn't told people that she would either die of heat, or heart failure, or starvation. When it was known that she was dead, that they knew from the start that she was going to die, the animal rights movements began.”

Monsieur Chèvre was a human victim of a similar kind of practice. A charlatan experimented on him by grafting goat's legs on him. “There are beautiful drawings of this fellow,” says Noël-Maw. These drawings were given to the graphic designer for the book cover.

Local settings and student-created characters make for stories that resonate with young readers.

“When you write, you want the reader to believe it. In *La Malchance d'Austin*, the first novel I did for this collection, a little guy from Moose Jaw has a bionic leg transplant. All sorts of things happen to him while he's at the Shriners Hospital in Montreal. I gave talks about this novel all over the country. And there was always someone in every class who asked me if they could meet Austin. Because for them, it's true.” 🌿

“I gave talks about this novel all over the country. And there was always someone in every class who asked me if they could meet Austin. Because for them, it's true.” MARTINE NOËL-MAW

« J'ai présenté ce roman partout à travers le pays. Et il y a toujours eu quelqu'un dans chaque classe qui m'a demandé s'il pouvait rencontrer Austin. Parce que pour eux, c'est vrai. » MARTINE NOËL-MAW

Pair of books celebrate Calgary Stampede traditions of chuckwagon racing, pancake breakfasts

History of racing, picture book to be published in time for Stampede season this year

by Amanda Sanders

FLIP FLOP FLAPJACK!

Wildhorse Jack and the First Stampede Breakfast

Brenda Joyce Leahy

Illustrated by Melissa Bruglemans-LaBelle

Red Barn Books

with archive photos, recipe, Fun Facts

\$22.95 hc, 40 pages

ISBN: 978-1-989915-12-7

\$17.99 pb, 32 pages

ISBN: 978-1-989915-11-0

Available as an ebook

THE RANGELAND DERBY:

100 Years of Chuckwagon Racing at the Calgary Stampede

Glen Mikkelsen

Folklore Publishing

with photos throughout

\$29.95 pb, 352 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77311-013-4

Available as an ebook

For over 100 years people have converged on the city of Calgary for the Calgary Stampede for 10 days in July. Books celebrating the centennials of two Stampede traditions – chuckwagon racing and pancake breakfasts – are being published this year.

Glen Mikkelsen, the author of *The Rangeland Derby: 100 Years of Chuckwagon Racing at the Calgary Stampede*, looks forward to the Stampede more than Christmas.

“The Stampede encompasses summer, friendship, laughter, energy, cowboys and cowgirls, and wannabe cowboys and cowgirls,” he says. “Ultimately, it is a tear-inducing, friend-making, ‘Yahoo!’-hollering 10 days of great fun!”

His love of chuckwagon racing started early, when his parents took him to the Stampede. “I was a child, just

old enough to walk the grounds,” he recalls. “Our family was walking amidst the barns or midway, next to the old Stampede racetrack. Then they came. With a roar, 32 horses, 20 cowboys, and four chuckwagons came yelling, galloping, and plunging past.”

Mikkelsen continues, “I do not remember the specifics, but I do remember the feeling. I was entranced by the sheer wonderment of that kinetic energy. The sounds. The drumming hooves in the dirt. The rattling of the wooden wagons.”

The Rangeland Derby covers the history of chuckwagon racing from its origins in trail rides of the late 19th century through 10 decades of these races at the Calgary Stampede, and the attractively-designed book includes a generous assortment of photographs, both contemporary and historical.

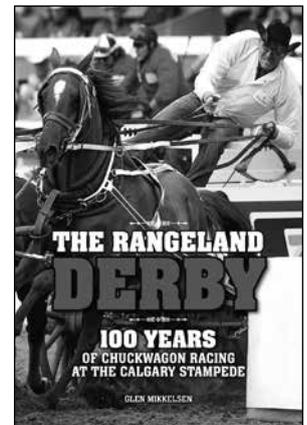
With his love of the races, the author took considerable joy from the research for this book, particularly his discovery of newspaper articles covering the races in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s. “In the 1920s and ’30s, the races were brand new. The cowboys and organizers were figuring out the rules

together, and there was so much excitement and enthusiasm written into the articles,” he says.

“The 1950s was the decade of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. The mythical cowboy was everywhere in pop culture. And the Stampede, and chuckwagon racing, received heightened attention during that decade.”

Chuckwagon racing is such an exhilarating event, and so writers and journalists of the era relished the exciting task of writing about the event for people who couldn’t attend in those days before video footage replays.

Mikkelsen sees the consistent bond the chuckwagon families have with their horses – “their



Glen Mikkelsen

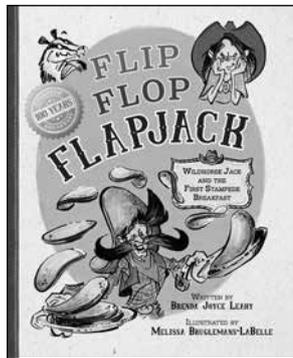
CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

racing partners” – as particularly special. “The families have made significant sacrifices, mostly unseen by spectators, to nourish, train, and race with some of the fastest horses on the planet,” he says.

“With so few people professionally racing chuckwagons, they are some of the most special families in the world.”

Family is also at the heart of the other 100-year-old tradition being commemorated in a book this year.

The picture book *Flip Flop Flapjack! Wildhorse Jack and the First Stampede Breakfast* by Alberta-based author Brenda Joyce Leahy, illustrated by Melissa Bruglemans-LaBelle, tells the story of the first pancake breakfast at the Calgary Stampede, held in 1923 by “Wildhorse” Jack Morton out of the back of his chuckwagon.



Growing up, Leahy heard stories of her grandfather, who died before she was born. Leahy decided to tell the story through the eyes

of Jack’s daughter, Leahy’s mother.

“My mother, Frances (‘Frankie’) lived a long and full life, and died at 101 years of age; she was seven when the first breakfast was created, the perfect age through which to tell this story,” says Leahy.

“When the 100th anniversary of the 1923 Stampede pancake breakfast was approaching, I thought the timing

“Many of the stories seemed so wild and dangerous, so crazy and ultimately comical that it was hard to believe that Jack Morton was actually real, that he wasn’t a work of pure fiction.”

MELISSA BRUGLEMANS-LABELLE

was right to tell the story to a wider audience.”

Leahy also wanted to correct the historical record – some articles that she came across said her grandfather was a young cowboy “down on his luck” in 1923, when, says Leahy, “Jack was actually in his 40s, a father to five children, and at the height of his land and cattle holdings. It’s time to correct those mistakes.”

In addition to founding the free pancake breakfast, “Wildhorse” Jack competed for many years in many of the rodeo events, rode in the parades with his family and his pet badgers, and supplied livestock for the rodeo events, including the bucking broncs. The author wanted

to tell this story for her grandchildren (Jack’s great-great grandchildren), so a picture book was her choice of genre.

While the Calgary Stampede intersects with Leahy’s family history, she also recognizes its wider significance. “The Calgary Stampede is a celebration of western history and culture, and is uniquely Californian in many ways,” she says. “Its core values are ‘western hospitality, integrity, and commitment to community,’ values I can honour as well.”

Alberta-born-and-raised illustrator Bruglemans-LaBelle was thrilled to work on *Flip Flop Flapjack!* after a career of commissioned works of art, wall murals, signs, and window painting. “This children’s book project was my opportunity to finally do what my younger self always wanted to do,” she says. “To finally honour that ‘someday’ promise.”

Bruglemans-LaBelle was instantly smitten upon hearing stories about “Wildhorse” Jack Morton. After doing some research, she found, she says, “Many of the stories seemed so wild and dangerous, so crazy and ultimately comical that it was hard to believe that Jack Morton was actually real, that he wasn’t a work of pure fiction.”

Her vision for Jack’s features emphasized certain physical features to reflect his larger-than-life story. “I wanted Jack to be rather tall and strong looking. I gave him height by making his legs almost two-thirds of his entire body (minus his cowboy hat) and [made] his brute strength especially visible by giving him a rather broad chest, forearms, and hands,” she explains. In addition, his outrageously oversized moustache gives him a bold and confident look, which is softened by his warm smile and his expressive eyebrows.

Interestingly, one of Leahy’s favourite Stampede events is the chuckwagon racing (“I imagine what it might have been like back in 1923,” she says), and one of Mikkelson’s favourite parts is “the hospitality around the city every morning at all the pancake breakfasts.”

Whether eating breakfast or watching chuckwagon races with bated breath, family and friends find an easy camaraderie. “The Calgary Stampede has become a special gathering place that hosts well over a million guests from all over the world, allowing us all to connect through a celebration of our western heritage,” says Bruglemans-LaBelle.

“It’s a rare and special experience to be a part of something like that.” 🌿



Brenda Joyce Leahy and
Melissa Bruglemans-LaBelle

Dispatches from Poetry In Voice DIIP Consultant

by Cooper Skjeie

Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie (PIV/LVP) wants everyone in Canada to speak poetry. To realize this, PIV/LVP has compiled an abundance of resources for educators and various ways to engage young people in the world of poetry.

PIV/LVP's always-expanding collection of poems invites students to read, write, and recite, giving them opportunities to engage with the work of poets ranging from those of yesteryear to many of the brightest names writing today.

Many of these poems have associated lesson plans, dive-ins, and one-liners. The new poetic playlist initiative called Mixtapes presents mini-collections on various themes, such as "Prairie Inclusivity," which includes works by Katherena Vermette, Bertrand Bickersteth, and Brandi Bird (whose debut poetry collection will be out with House of Anansi Press in fall 2023).

The "Write" section of the website is a rich source of exercises written by Poetry In Voice anthology poets and members of the Poet Network, some of whom

PIV/LVP's always-expanding collection of poems invites students to read, write, and recite, giving them opportunities to engage with the work of poets ranging from those of yesteryear to many of the brightest names writing today.

FutureVerse is the newest program offered by Poetry In Voice – an all-expenses-paid writing intensive that will immerse 25 high school poets from coast to coast to coast in a poetry experience like no other.

are available to be booked for classroom visits as part of the popular Poet In Class program. Any poem that students produce after engaging with Poetry In Voice can be submitted to the *Voices/Voix* journal for a chance at paid publication. Every month there is the monthly prompt prize of \$100, and starting this year, every poem submitted to *Voices* could potentially be shortlisted for FutureVerse.

Over four days, well-known authors, publishers, and activists lead students through talks and workshops on subjects like mental health and addiction, eco-poetics and activism, Indigenous literature and decolonizing poetry, and the business of writing. This incredible experience took place on Treaty 7 Territory in Calgary this year, in the days leading up to the 2023 National Finals Show.



Cooper Skjeie

Since 2010, Poetry In Voice has called on Canadian schools to host local recitation contests, which could earn their students a spot as a finalist in the annual competition. Out of hundreds of recitation submissions each year, nine students are selected (who will also fill nine of the 25 slots open for FutureVerse) to compete as national finalists in one of three contest streams: English, French, or Bilingual.

This year's finalists recited memorized poems before a packed house at the Calgary Central Public Library, where a panel of professional poets awarded a \$3,000 grand prize, just part of the \$75,000 in prize and travel money awarded annually through the PIV/LVP recitation competitions.

What else to say about Poetry In Voice? In recent months, our team, in collaboration with Indigenous poets, educators, and artists, has been at work developing a new section of the website titled Decolonial Initiatives and Indigenous Programming (DIIP).

The aim of DIIP is to increase Indigenous student engagement with Poetry In Voice, to create a space that centres the work of Indigenous poets, and to provide students and teachers with resources that explore themes of decolonization. DIIP will be ready in time for the 2023/2024 school year. Any Indigenous poets or educators who might be interested in creating content for the program can reach out to me at cooper@poetryinvoice.ca. ✎

Cooper Skjeie is an award-winning poet and educator from Saskatoon. He currently serves as the Decolonial Initiatives and Indigenous Programming Consultant at Poetry In Voice.

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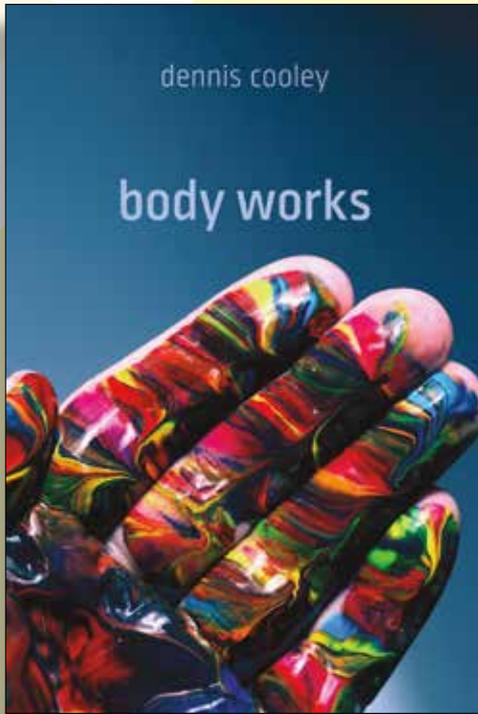
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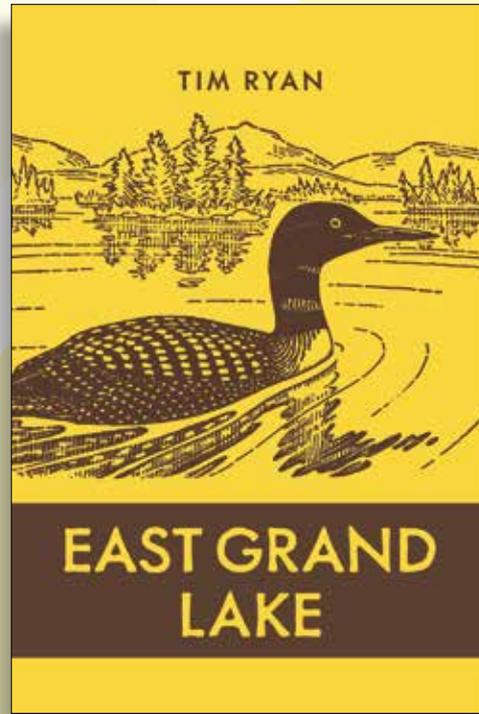
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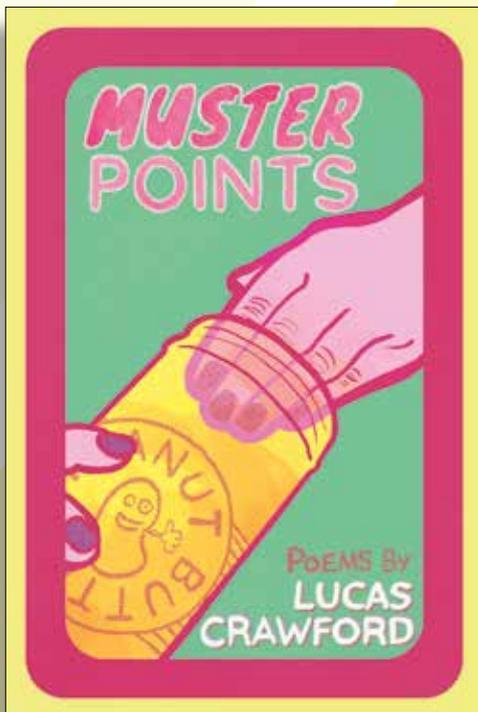
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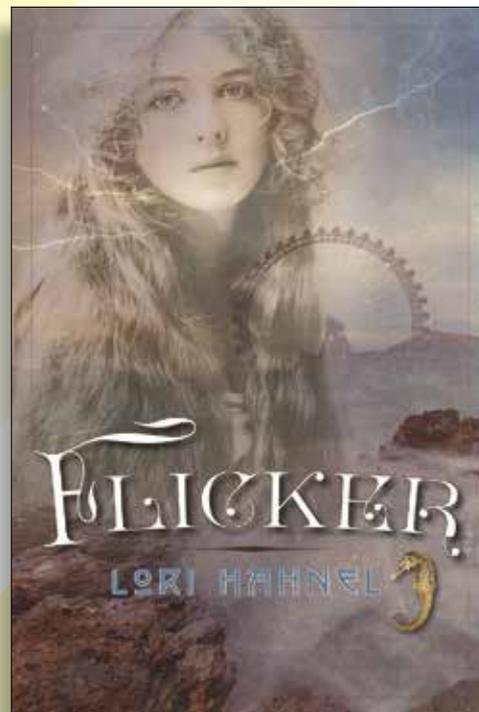
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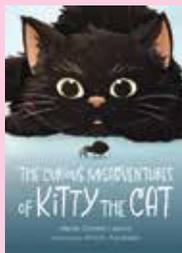
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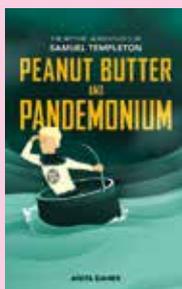


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