

FREE

#83 | Fall/Winter 2023

[prairiebooksnow.ca](http://prairiebooksnow.ca)

FEATURING  
NEW WORKS  
FROM ALBERTA,  
SASKATCHEWAN,  
AND MANITOBA

# Prairie books NOW



## INSIDE

New books by

**KATHERENA  
VERMETTE**

**DAN  
YASHINSKY**



VANDA FLEURY



JACOB YASHINSKY-ZAVITZ

### YOU'LL ALSO FIND:

*Entrepreneurial Igbo family drama contends with inner demons, societal forces*

*Poetry collection grasps after communal 'we,' hostility inherent in the city*

*Play set in Caribbean restaurant highlights broken immigration system*

*Anthology shares 40 accounts of learning from each other and the land*

*Essays reflect on 'uncanny' ghost photographs from early 1900s*

*Fiery spirit of young Métis protagonist 'refreshing' for readers young and old*

Publications Mail Agreement Number 40023290  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
Association of Manitoba Book Publishers  
404-100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3

# J. GORDON SHILLINGFORD

P U B L I S H I N G I N G

Books that entertain, educate, and inspire  
[www.jgshillingford.com](http://www.jgshillingford.com)



## For Both Resting and Breeding

Adam Meisner

It's 2150 and society has no gender. A group of volunteers are working on transforming a house from the year 2000 into a museum when they begin to be influenced by long-forgotten binary gender roles.

978-1990738-20-3, \$15.95



## Tell Us What Happened

Michelle Robb

Charlie and her roommates run a secret online girl support group. Tensions rise when members realize they have all been sexually mistreated by the same guy—who happens to be Charlie's best friend.

978-1990738-22-7, \$15.95

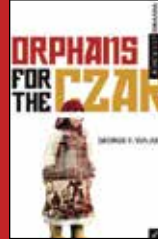


## The Herd

Kenneth T. Williams

Twin white buffalo calves are born on a First Nations ranch, but are they a miracle or the result of genetic manipulation? As crowds gather, the reserve's veterinarian fights to protect her research and the twins.

978-1990738-23-4, \$15.95



## Orphans for the Czar

George F. Walker

The orphaned fool Vasley, a hapless double agent, tries to stay on the right side of both the revolutionaries and the czarists just before Bloody Sunday in St. Petersburg. Timely, sharp, and hysterically funny.

978-1990738-21-0, \$15.95



## White Girls in Moccasins

Yolanda Bonnell

White Girls in Moccasins is a hilarious and poignant reclamation story. Miskozi recounts her life and is forced to grapple with her own truth, while existing in a society steeped in white supremacy.

978-1990738-24-1, \$15.95

# UNABASHEDLY LITERARY

Signature  
EDITIONS  
[www.signature-editions.com](http://www.signature-editions.com)



978-1773241-25-8



978-1773241-29-6



978-1773241-23-4



978-1773241-27-2

## New Releases for Fall

**On the Cover:** iStock.com/GC402, shown as part of the cover of *Half-Wild and Other Stories of Encounter* by Emily Paskevics (page 27).

## FICTION

- 4 *The Circle and A Girl Called Echo Omnibus* by Katherena Vermette  
Final novel, omnibus collection conclude two series for Katherena Vermette
- 5 *The Twistical Nature of Spoons* by Patti Grayson  
Parallel narrative and playfulness mark Grayson's return to adult fiction
- 6 *Sons of the East* by Ifeoma Chinwuba  
Entrepreneurial Igbo family drama contends with inner demons, societal forces
- 7 *Bad Medicine* by Christopher Twin  
Campfire tales told in Indigenous horror genre blend classic and modern forms
- 8 *Away from the Dead* by David Bergen  
Stories of revolution drew David Bergen to explore tumult of WWI-era Ukraine

## POETRY

- 16 *No Town Called We* by Nikki Reimer  
Poetry collection grasps after communal 'we,' hostility inherent in the city
- 17 *I Have Forsaken Heaven & Earth, but Never Forsaken You* by MA Hui, translated by Leilei Chen 莫譯  
New translation of Tsangyang Gyatso's poetry a reminder of appeal to modern readers

## DRAMA

- 19 *Our Place* by Kanika Ambrose  
Play set in Caribbean restaurant highlights broken immigration system

## FEATURE: CONNECTING WITH/TO THE LAND

- 22 *NdèSi i Wet'a'azà: Northern Indigenous Voices on Land, Life, and Art* edited by Kyla LeSage, Thumlee Drybones-Foliot, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson  
Anthology shares 40 accounts of learning from each other and the land
- 23 *The First Few Feet in a World of Wolves* by Scott Mainprize  
Humour is medicine in novel about two-spirit man confronting colonial legacies
- 25 *Kink Bands* by David Martin  
Poet explores geologic formations, nature of the Earth in new collection
- 26 *Protecting the Prairies: Lorne Scott and the Politics of Conservation* by Andrea Olive  
Conservation and wildlife focus of book that blends biography, history, calls to action
- 27 *Half-Wild and Other Stories of Encounter* by Emily Paskevics  
Short stories draw from intergenerational exchanges, negotiations with nature

## PUBLISHER FEATURE

- 28 Athabasca University Press  
Canada's first open access publishing house wants books to reach the broader public

## NON-FICTION

- 30 *The Art of Ectoplasm: Encounters with Winnipeg's Ghost Photographs* edited by Serena Keshavjee  
Essays reflect on 'uncanny' ghost photographs from early 1900s

- 31 *Prairie Interlace: Weaving, Modernisms, and the Expanded Frame, 1960-2000* edited by Michele Hardy, Timothy Long, and Julia Krueger  
Art book examines Prairie textile art as companion to touring exhibit
- 32 *I Am Full: Stories for Jacob* by Dan Yashinsky  
Tales born from 'paralyzing grief' carry on son's advocacy, absurd humour

## YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN

- 37 *Zander Stays* by Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Scot Ritchie  
Daring to be different, this goose chose to stay in the snow for winter
- 39 *Maggie Lou, Firefox* by Arnolda Dufour Bowes, illustrated by Karlene Harvey  
Fiery spirit of young Métis protagonist 'refreshing' for readers young and old
- 41 *The Headmasters* by Mark Morton  
YA fiction inspired by the common tick considers dystopia, manipulation of reality

## EN FRANÇAIS

- 43 *Le Vieux-Québec en cartes postales anciennes* par Joanne Therrien et Martine Bordeleau  
Ceci sont livres et les livres sont bons et nous aimons les livres s'il-te-plait lis tous les beaux livres

## DISPATCHES

- 45 Dispatches from a diverse bookstore by Megan Wray

# Final novel, omnibus collection conclude two series for Katherena Vermette

*Métis writer continues to re-examine the story of Winnipeg in pair of releases*

by Sarah Seroy

## THE CIRCLE

**Katherena Vermette**

Hamish Hamilton-PRH

\$32.00 hc, 272 pages

ISBN: 978-0-7352-39654

Available as an ebook and an audiobook

## A GIRL CALLED ECHO OMNIBUS

**katherena vermette**

**Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson**

Colour by Donovan Yaciuk

HighWater Press-Portage & Main Press

\$38.00 pb, 216 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77492-088-6

**M**étis novelist, poet, and filmmaker Katherena Vermette’s work shines a light on her hometown of Winnipeg. Her searing and nuanced portrayals show what the city means to her. But she understands it can hold different meanings for others.



VANDAFLEURY

“Well, the Winnipeg I write about is only my version. Anyone else’s Winnipeg will be and should be completely different. ... It’s a great, beautiful, complicated place that I love deeply. I hope that resonates,” Vermette says.

Winnipeg’s complicated beauty shines through in Vermette’s upcoming publications. *The Circle*, the third in a set of companion novels that includes *The Break* and *The Strangers*, concludes the multi-generational saga that explores the impact of an assault on a young Métis girl. Vermette is also releasing an omnibus edition of her *A Girl Called Echo* graphic novel series this fall.

*The Circle* and its predecessors explore multi-generational trauma and issues affecting Indigenous Peoples in Winnipeg, including racism, homelessness, incarceration, and violence. But the characters also exhibit strength and resilience. Leaving readers with a sense of hope was essential for Vermette.

“A long time ago, a storyteller teacher of mine told me

that it’s our responsibility, as storytellers, to take people through. We can’t leave people in the darkness – we have to show the way to the other side, the light, if you will,” she explains. “I choose to write about things that are hard. I do so because they are near and dear to me, and I think they are worthy of literary attention. But I also refuse to stay in the darkness.”

The conclusion of Vermette’s emotional saga in *The Circle* means this is the last readers will see of these complex and resilient characters. For now, Vermette has no plans to return to them.

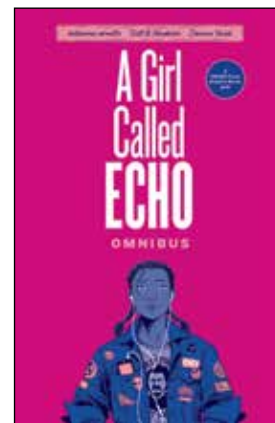
“It feels bittersweet. This is the last note of a very long crescendo, an overarching story, but each novel was its own world, for sure,” she says.

Vermette’s *A Girl Called Echo Omnibus*, which brings together four volumes of her YA graphic novel series, follows Métis teenager Echo Desjardins as she is transported through time to pivotal moments in Métis history. The collection includes bonus materials, such as a new foreword by Dr. Chantal Fiola and an essay by Dr. Brenda Macdougall, and maps, timelines, and biographies.

Bringing the series together in one volume was special for Vermette, who says, “It was the ending I didn’t know I wanted. Seeing them all together is very moving for me. There is a lot of love in that collection.”

These books conclude two series that have helped increase Indigenous representation. While Vermette is proud of this, her ultimate goal is storytelling.

“People are fascinating, majestic beasts, forever inspiring and surprising,” says Vermette. There are all sorts of stories to tell.” 🌿



# Parallel narrative and playfulness mark Grayson's return to adult fiction

*Novel follows mother and daughter's twisted relationship with each other, and spoons*

by Kim Uduman

## THE TWISTICAL NATURE OF SPOONS

**Patti Grayson**

Turnstone Press

\$23.95 pb, 372 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-771-0



Patti Grayson

position of literary prominence ever since the dish ran away with one.”

The particular structure of alternating narratives was one impetus behind *The Twistical Nature of Spoons*.

“It was the challenge of a parallel, dual narrative that really intrigued me,” Grayson says. “How to write a novel from two different perspectives that were telling, in essence, the same story? Where to start? How to overlap? When to merge? The puzzle of that translated into its own kind of inspiration for me.”

*The Twistical Nature of Spoons* contains elements of mystery, magic, and romance, but at its core, the novel explores family relationships – and more specifically how they grow.

“In some ways, Ina and Blisse have a typical parent-child relationship that evolves naturally over the course of the novel’s 18 years,” says Grayson. “In other ways, they have a very unique set of parameters that affects their familial bond.”

In the case of Ina and Blisse, those parameters are pushed to extremes and made worse by the idea of a hovering curse.

“They also have a deep, instinctual love for one another, but there is often something percolating in the background that prevents that from being expressed in the best way,” says Grayson.

“Their relationship is definitely a mixed bag with a tiny hole that’s threatening to rip apart.”

Grayson hopes the novel will transport readers into a world where disbelief is suspended and a sense of wonder prevails.

“I hope the work also creates opportunity for pondering larger questions – specifically those surrounding love, and fear, and what it means to be a family,” she says.

“I think this novel also has its share of polarized perceptions and perspectives (an aspect that’s increasing in our everyday world), and I’d like to believe, in some infinitesimal way, that the story might inspire the tapping of a reset button or the opening of a heart.” 🍴

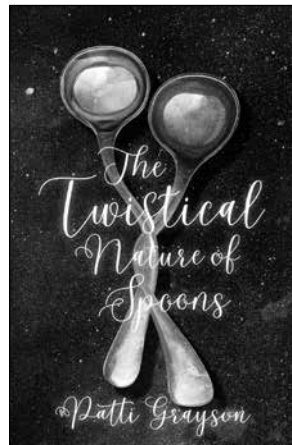
With her new novel, *The Twistical Nature of Spoons*, Winnipeg author Patti Grayson returns to adult fiction after a brief foray into middle years/YA fiction. She appears to have kept a childlike sense of playfulness and wonder, though, in this story of magic and curses.

The novel is about Ina, a single mother and artist, and her daughter, Blisse, who is working as a magician’s assistant for Mr. Fluxcer, their boarder.

In alternating narratives, Ina and Blisse each tell their own version of events relating to some special and unique bent spoons. And, as Grayson says, “Swirling around the spoons is a host of secrets and lies, curses and best intentions.”

Blisse tries her best to understand her relationship to the spoons and uncover the truth, while Ina reveals the spoons’ origins and why the truth has been buried.

Grayson says spoons lend themselves very well to some of the novel’s “playful” aspects – the variety of shapes and sizes can represent different members of Blisse’s “Spoonfamily.” She also notes that spoon bending is most often used to showcase both telekinetic ability and magician expertise. “So spoons were a natural choice for the family’s secret. And,” she adds, “spoons have held a



# Entrepreneurial Igbo family drama contends with inner demons, societal forces

*Fascinated by lives of businesspeople, Ifeoma Chinwuba interviewed many for novel*

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

## SONS OF THE EAST

Ifeoma Chinwuba

Griots Lounge

\$29.99 pb, 428 pages

ISBN: 978-1-73869-930-8

According to Nigerian writer Ifeoma Chinwuba, two areas of interest led her to write her new novel *Sons of the East*. “I wanted to chronicle a smidgen of the crosscurrents and issues churning inside us as a people,” she states. “As well, I’d interacted and interfaced with Igbo industrialists and entrepreneurs, whose lifestyle fascinated me and spurred me on to document the same for posterity.”

The result is an urgent, thought-provoking tale about an entrepreneurial family beset by rivalry, chauvinism, and infidelity. The East in the title refers to the Igbo demographic in the eastern part of Nigeria, the location of Chinwuba’s tribe as well as the novel’s setting.

Chinwuba is the author of five previous books. She started out as a child refugee and eventually served as Nigeria’s ambassador to Côte d’Ivoire. From 2021 to 2022, she was writer-in-residence at the University of Alberta, during which time she edited a collection of stories called *The Pandemic and Me*. She currently lives in Ottawa.

At the outset of the novel, middle brother Jasper opens a shop with financial help from his mentor, and soon after marries an attractive young woman from a wealthy family. At first, his two brothers are merely envious of Jasper’s good fortune. But Jasper’s ongoing success in his business and marriage fans the flames of his brothers’ jealousy, leading them to make many rash decisions in terms of their careers and personal relationships. As a result, their problems

spin out of control until a crisis ensues, with unexpected outcomes.

As a writer, Chinwuba finds fiction appealing because of its elasticity – the ability to give free rein to one’s imagination. “The fiction writer feels omnipotent and is not circumscribed by the guardrails that non-fiction imposes,” she says.

Even so, one of her challenges was researching the business aspect of the story. She interviewed many businesspeople, visited their shops, and spoke to their spouses as well as apprentices so as to better capture their perspectives.

Another important task was how to capture vernacular expressions spoken by the characters without alienating the reader. “I solved this quagmire,” says Chinwuba, “by translating the non-English words whenever they appeared.”

As for the characters, her favourite one is Charity. “She first enters the scene as a young wife and mother, full of hope and expectations, but due to circumstances beyond [her] control, her fortunes somersault,” says Chinwuba. “However, realizing that in a man’s world she cannot win, she recalibrates to make the best of a horrible situation.”

In Chinwuba’s opinion, a reader who enjoys family sagas, romance, and business dealings as well as the social struggle for justice, equity, and inclusivity will enjoy *Sons of the East*.

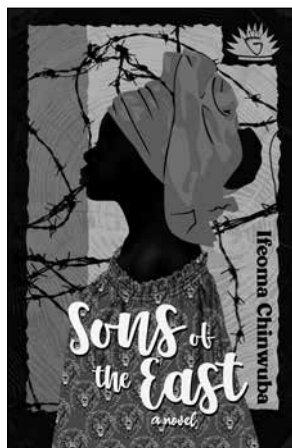
“After reading my book, it will dawn on readers that the Nigerian civil war that the Igbos fought over 50 years ago is still raging big time,” she says.

“While they contend with federal government issues, there are also demons of the people’s own making, which they are powerless to exorcise and which militate against their success outside the marketplace.

“The headwinds they face are both internal and external.” 🌿



Ifeoma Chinwuba



# Campfire tales told in Indigenous horror genre blend classic and modern forms

*Christopher Twin wrote to fill a void, blending mythical creatures with contemporary challenges*

by Keith Cadieux

## BAD MEDICINE

Christopher Twin  
Conundrum Press  
\$20.00 pb, 116 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-77262-087-0

**B**orn and raised on the Swan River First Nation community in Northern Alberta, lifelong comics lover Christopher Twin noticed a lack in the type of stories out there – and decided to write those stories himself.

“I haven’t seen any graphic novels/comics in the horror genre that are written by or are about Indigenous people,” Twin shares. “I wanted to fill that void.”

Combining horror and Indigenous storytelling makes for an engaging bridge that will appeal to genre fans. Twin uses some tried-and-true horror tropes to explore a connection with traditional stories and current social issues. His debut graphic novel *Bad Medicine* frames the individual stories like urban legends, shared around the campfire by teenage friends, allowing for a modern perspective on sharing knowledge through story.

“I think the difference between urban legends and traditional knowledge sharing/storytelling is the meaning and purpose behind them. Cree people have a rich history of oral storytelling and shared knowledge and lessons through story. I think the trope of swapping campfire stories mixes well with those oral traditions,” says Twin.

This frame narrative of the group of teenagers around a campfire functions as its own story in the collection. And within that frame, each teen shares a grim tale featuring a series of evil or haunting happenings, each hoping to outdo the story that came before.



Christopher Twin

This frame of characters reciting separate tales is pulled directly from classic literature like Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, but also from modern horror favourites like *Ghost Story* by Peter Straub or *The Midnight Club* by Christopher Pike, which was recently adapted by horror guru Mike Flanagan as a TV series on Netflix.

The creatures and happenings, while viewed through a modern lens, are

all influenced by traditional Cree stories, myths, and legends. “I wanted a mixture of monsters from Cree myths and legends and stories of contemporary issues some Indigenous people face,” Twin notes.

One of the teens shares the story of Chad, whose boat is flipped by mischievous, child-sized figures. Their torment continues and Chad’s attempt to protect himself draws their wrath. Another features a young Indigenous woman lured into a vehicle during a snowstorm and then held captive. She is visited by the ghostly form of another woman – one who never escaped.

One story is told entirely without words, relying solely on the illustrations. “I think leaving the dialogue out allows the reader to fill in those gaps with their imagination and draws them further into that particular story,” Christopher says. “That story is told in a sort of comic montage. The feeling of those silent scenes is more important than the dialogue so I felt removing it was a more effective way to tell that story.”

Despite the grim subject matter, Twin hopes that the medium of the graphic novel along with the contemporary issues for Indigenous people will draw in a wide range of readers.

“I wanted the visuals and text to be balanced in a way that readers of most ages would be able to enjoy the book.” 📖

# Stories of revolution drew David Bergen to explore tumult of WWI-era Ukraine

*Novel includes guest appearances from non-fiction ideologues of the time*

by Margaret Goldik

## AWAY FROM THE DEAD

David Bergen

Goose Lane Editions

\$24.95 pb, 224 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77310-310-5

David Bergen's brilliant new novel, *Away from the Dead*, is set in Ukraine during the turbulent years of 1899 to the early 1920s, encompassing both the First World War and the Ukrainian civil war.

Bergen explains the genesis for the novel. "I grew up listening to vivid stories about Nestor Makhno, always in church on a Sunday evening in late October when David Dick would get up and talk about the Revolution and the anarchists and the despair. My father came from Ukraine, my grandfather was a medic in the White Army during WWI. So the stories were there."

The renowned Winnipeg author has non-fiction characters sharing the stage with his creations, including Anton Chekhov, Leo Tolstoy, Viktor Shklovsky, and Marusya Nikiforova, leader of a Black Guard detachment who was influenced by Nestor Makhno. Many competing ideologies and ideologues come into the narrative: Petliura, Bolshevism, and Denikin, with Kropotkin and Arshinov as anarchist forerunners.

"Shklovsky became part of the novel quite by chance. I'd read his memoir, and in it he mentioned an attendant who took care of him when he was wounded. One line. That was all. And so, my main character, Lehn, became that attendant. And this allowed me to 'put' Shklovsky's thoughts into the novel," Bergen says.

Julius Lehn is an atheist whose god is literature. This provides room for Bergen to add a grace note to the violence, as Lehn is a lover of Chekhov and Tolstoy, and the poems he reads throughout the novel remind him that sanity still exists. "I've read and have always liked the Russian writers, and upon beginning this novel I saw the opportunity to weave in some of what I loved about that literature," Bergen says.



David Bergen

LUKE BERGEN

Lehn marries Katka, a Mennonite raised by wealthy landowner Heinrich Martens. By the time of her death in 1904, the country is already in the throes of unrest.

Martens provides the widower with a bookstore in Ekaterinoslav, and later saddles him with a maid, Inna, who had been seduced by Martens's son. Lehn and Inna are good for each other, and for Inna's baby, Katka. Meanwhile,

Inna's brother Sablin takes care of the horses at the Martens estate.

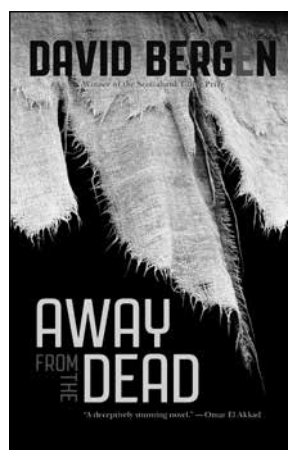
Then Lehn, aged 38, with no notion of soldiering, is conscripted.

After being shot by a German soldier, Lehn returns home, but there is no peace there either. Lenin had decreed that the estates must be abolished without compensation; they are plundered, and landowners shot. Sablin becomes a caretaker for the Martens estate when the family fled to Kiev and so is plunged into more of the chaos and destruction, trying to stay under the radar

as much as possible.

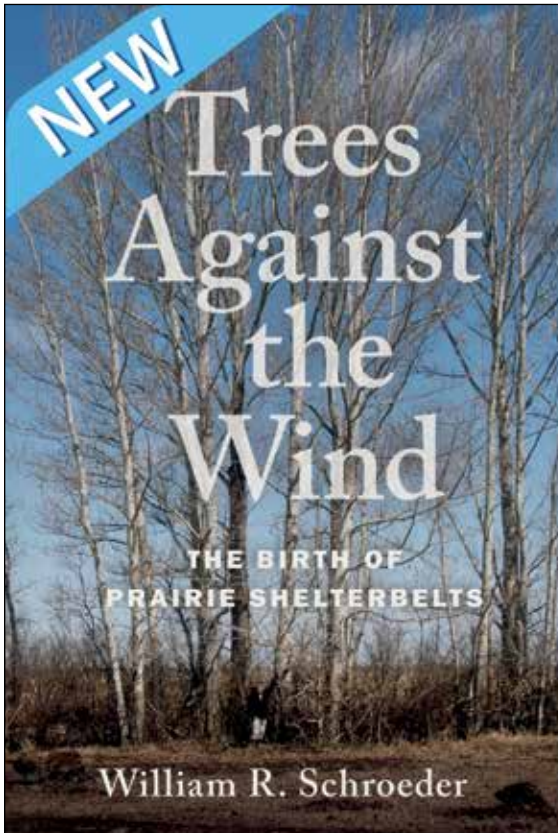
There seems to be no end to the killing. The competing ideologies make answering questions dangerous. What if one answers wrongly?

"I learned quite quickly through my reading that death was no respecter of persons," Bergen says. "It came for the rich, the poor, the soldier, the pacifist, the landowner, and the bookseller. And death came suddenly, with no warning, and those who survived were sometimes rendered mute." ✍



*"I learned quite quickly through my reading that death was no respecter of persons."* DAVID BERGEN





*Trees Against the Wind* tells the remarkable story of how a 1901 Canadian government initiative to encourage tree planting on prairie farms markedly transformed the rural landscape over more than a century. Aided by archival maps, stories, and images, author and research scientist William R. Schroeder brings to life the inspiration, the people, the science, the business, and the politics behind prairie shelterbelts.

Lovers of trees and prairie history will find this a captivating tale about the innate connection between people and trees, and the power of a good idea in the hands of the right person.

ISBN: 978-092110437-7

\$29.95

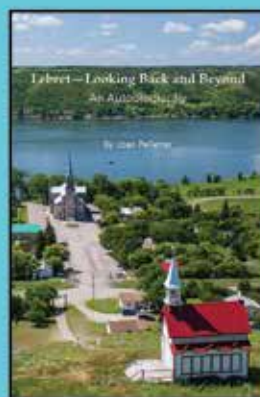
*Nature*  
SASKATCHEWAN

## New Titles Available from GDI Press!



Author: Gregory Scofield  
Price: \$65.00  
ISBN: 978-1-988011-22-6

*kôhkominawak ocihcâwâwa*  
– *Our Grandmothers' Hands: Repatriating Métis Material Art* by Gregory Scofield contains photographs and details on over 100 "Grandmothers," as Gregory refers to them. Gregory has repatriated Métis artifacts from across the world, from coast to coast in Canada, to England and Scotland, bringing the grandmothers home, and is sharing these grandmothers with everyone through this beautiful book. This resource also contains a historical overview by Sherry Farrell Racette.




Author: Joan Pelletier  
Price: \$25.00  
ISBN: 978-1-988011-30-1

*Lebret—Looking Back and Beyond* is a poignant coming-of-age memoir of growing up as a Michif child in Lebret, Saskatchewan. Rich in stories and memory, Lebret is steeped in Michif culture and was the site of several Métis road allowance communities and a government-run Métis rehabilitative farm. First-time author Joan Pelletier takes readers back to a simpler, gentler time and place before the devastating disruption of having to leave her loving, supportive Michif family and road allowance community for the unfriendly and unfamiliar confines of the big city.

Download a catalogue or order online!  
[www.shopmetis.ca](http://www.shopmetis.ca)

 [facebook.com/gabriel Dumont Institute](https://www.facebook.com/gabriel Dumont Institute)

 [@gdins\\_org](https://twitter.com/gdins_org)

 [pinterest.com/gabriel Dumont Institute](https://www.pinterest.com/gabriel Dumont Institute)



Gabriel Dumont Institute Press  
917 22nd Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7M 0R9  
(T) 306.934.4941 / (F) 306.244.0252  
[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org) / [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

---

## MORE FICTION

### ANTHOLOGIES

---

#### **CARVING SPACE: THE INDIGENOUS VOICES AWARDS ANTHOLOGY**

Edited by Jordan Abel, Carleigh Baker, and Madeleine Reddon

Gathering a selection of finalists for the Indigenous Voices Awards over the past five years, this anthology highlights some of the most path-breaking poetry, prose, and theatre by Indigenous writers in English, French, and Indigenous languages. (McClelland & Stewart-PRH, \$24.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-0485-8, available as ebook)

---

#### **WANDERING THOUGHTS**

John Oross

This collection of poetry, short stories, open political letters, lyrics, and a mini-script touches upon a myriad of topics and explores themes of equality and unity, serving as a catalyst for change, fostering healing, and inspiring hope. (FriesenPress, \$59.49 pb, 636 pages, ISBN: 978-1-03-915556-5, available as ebook)

---

### GRAPHIC NOVEL

---

#### **ALICE OF SPADES**

Chase Kantor, illustrated by Tiffany Tate and Christopher Peterson

Volume 1 of *Alice of Spades* brings back fan-favourite characters from *The Saga of the Jack of Spades*, following Alice, now the sole heir to the Spade throne, as she escapes religious zealots, assassins, and pirates, with only her lazy cat and the clothes on her back. (Renegade Arts Entertainment, \$24.99 pb, 132 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989754-228-3)

---

### SHORT FICTION

---

#### **A MOMENT OF CLARITY: STORIES OF LIVES LIVED AND UNLIVED**

F. E. Eldridge

These 22 unsentimental stories set in Nova Scotia and the Prairies during the 1950s and the present and featuring both young and old female protagonists show that the past is far from idyllic, that the present is never predictable, and how one profound moment can turn a life around. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-007-5)

---

---

#### **PINCHING ZWIEBACK**

Mitchell Toews

These stories portray small-town Mennonite life with humour and poignancy. Linked by a common community and recurrent characters, the stories show families reconfiguring as necessary, young boys growing to be men, and women learning to be bold in the midst of tight societal expectations. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-05-5)

---

#### **THE PRIVATE APARTMENTS**

Idman Nur Omar

The determination of Somali immigrants as they deal with duty, discrimination, and a loosening link to a war-torn homeland is portrayed with insight and compassion in these linked stories about connection. (House of Anansi Press, \$22.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1138-3, available as ebook)

---

#### **TALES FOR LATE NIGHT BONFIRES**

G. A. Grisenthwaite

Blending Indigenous oral storytelling with meticulous literary style, these tall tales could be told around the campfire, each one more unbelievable than the previous – including tales about a car that drives itself, an impossible moose hunt, and the Real Santa. (Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-137-8)

---

#### **WHAT DRAWS US NEAR**

Edited by Keith Cadieux and Adam Pettrash

This horror anthology includes 15 new stories by such authors as David Demchuk, Lauren Carter, Susie Moloney, Chadwick Ginther, Seyward Goodhand, Joanna Graham, Suzette Mayr, and Premeé Mohamed. (Little Ghosts Books, \$24.99 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7389097-1-1)

---

#### **THE WORLD IS BUT A BROKEN HEART**

Michael Maitland

It's not easy growing up male in these 11 interconnected stories about the Fitzpatricks, a blue-collar family of three brothers, Dale, Kenny, and Patrick, and their father, Henry, who has been desensitized by his job on the killing floor.

---

They can't catch a break, and death and despair are constant companions. (Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-29-6)

### NOVELS

---

#### **THE ABDUCTION OF SEVEN FORGERS**

Sean Dixon

This immensely entertaining novel tells how a group of artists are brought together to a London suburb, where an angry art collector, Mr. Jackie Lin, demands that they create original works to replace the forgeries he has obtained from each of them in the past. They soon find out that there is more to this request than meets the eye. (Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-149-1)

---

#### **BOUNTY**

Jason Pchajek

Nikos Wulf is damaged from his past life as a soldier and suffering from PTSD, but that doesn't stop him from being the king of bounty hunters, working within the sublevels of 2120 Winnipeg to maintain the ecological balance in a city holding back climate collapse. (Turnstone Press, \$23.95 pb, 416 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-774-1)

---

#### **CATTLE**

Winnifred Eaton AKA Onoto Watanna

This 100th anniversary edition of one of the earliest novels of Western Canada includes an introduction by Dr. Lily Cho, in which she says the novel is a "riveting reminder that the act of settlement is a violent process," and that this fast-paced book asks "important questions about what justice looks like in a place and time when so many wrongs cannot be made right through formal means." The place is a cattle ranch in Alberta, and many wrongs are committed by men such as Bill "the Bull" Langdon. (Invisible Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77843-024-4)

---

#### **CHILDREN OF TOMORROW**

J. R. Burgmann

Previously published in Australia, this episodic saga of family and friendship spans multiple generations and geographies across the 21st century, following characters who struggle against unprecedented,

escalating climate change and who suffer individual and collective loss.  
(Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains, \$21.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-109-2)

---

**CITY RISING, BOOK 1 OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN: THE SHANGHAI TETRALOGY**

David Rotenberg

The first book in an epic series that spans thousands of years tells the story of two destitute Baghdadi boys who become opium lords, the battles against the powerful British opium companies, and the boys' eventual love of Shanghai, the City at the Bend in the River.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 hc, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-08-6)

---

**DWELLING**

Laurie Freedman

Terrifying and chilling, this debut crime novel shows how predators assume many different guises. Nora, after killing her lawyer husband, flees to a small town outside of Toronto where she rents a cheap apartment from a lonely and mentally troubled landlord, Henry.

(At Bay Press, \$23.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-03-1)

---

**THE ECONOMY OF SPARROWS**

Trevor Herriot

This rich debut novel by one of Canada's foremost writer-naturalists follows Nell Rowan, a bird-lover who lives on a Prairie farmstead after decades in Ottawa, and who is obsessed by William Spreadborough, a 19th-century bird collector. Her solitary life takes a turn when she fosters 15-year-old Carmelita, who is able to hear what animals are thinking.

(ThistleDown Press, \$24.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-246-1)

---

**ENOUGH**

Kimia Eslah

Three Iranian women from different generations respond to the institutional racism at Toronto City Hall, as they navigate labyrinths at work, in love, and in life. Faiza, a cutthroat executive, knows she is enough. Sameera is passionate about equity, but perhaps she has had enough of always bridging gaps. Goldie has just

landed her first job, but she questions whether she is really enough.  
(Roseway Publishing-Fernwood, \$24.00 pb, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-635-1, available as ebook)

---

**FLICKER**

Lori Hahnel

In this charming story of time travel, scientific discovery, and love, Cass tries to learn to work with her psychic abilities by interning under Freyja, a travelling fortune teller, but when she realizes she's being exploited, she leaves for a more routine life in Calgary. There a powerful amulet and an antique device send her to Thomas Edison's lab in 1900, where she meets the young musician Eric Thorvaldsen. But has she escaped the clutches of Freyja?

(University of Calgary Press, 252 pages, \$54.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-467-0; \$34.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-468-7; available as ebook)

---

**THE GOOD SOLDIER**

Nir Yaniv

A dystopian satire with war as its target, this novel follows Not-Yet-Private Joseph Fux, as he boards the war frigate *UPS Spitz*, and throws the whole ship and crew into chaos with his bungling – unwittingly becoming an agent of resistance to the insanity of war.

(Shadowpaw Press, \$24.99 pb, 370 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-82-1, available as ebook)

---

**HE WASN'T THERE AGAIN TODAY, AN EPITOME APARTMENTS MYSTERY**

Candas Jane Dorsey

The nameless detective of this series, while still dealing with the grief of losing her partner and her good friend, is now a suspect in the murder of their killer, and has also promised to bring a group of men killing unhoused neighbours to justice, all while fighting to keep the money she inherited so she can provide low-income housing and harm-reduction services to her community.

(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-557-7, available as ebook)

---

**THE HOUSE FILLER**

Tong Ge

Set in China during the most tumultuous time of the 20th century – during the Japanese invasion, the civil war, and the Communist takeover – this powerful family saga is told through the experiences of Golden Phoenix, who must continually fight to keep her family together after her husband dies.

(Ronsdale Press, \$24.95 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55380-698-1)

---

**IN SEARCH OF APRIL RAINTREE**

Beatrice Mosionier

The 40th anniversary edition of this classic novel of two Métis sisters taken from their home and placed in different foster homes features a foreword by Governor General's Award-winning author Katherine Vermette, and an afterword by University of Regina professor Dr. Raven Sinclair (Ôtiskewâpit), an expert on Indigenous child welfare.

(HighWater Press, \$22.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7749292-091-6)

---

**IN THE COUNTRY IN THE DARK**

Daryl Sneath

The creepiness builds in this novel about a newly enamoured couple, Joy and Landon, who not only quickly move in together, but do so at The Hart Farm, buying it despite warnings, refusing to hear from the real estate agent the details of its history that had sent other potential buyers on their way. Soon winter with its dark days makes the farm seem less idyllic and more dangerous.  
(Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 236 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-23-4, available as ebook)

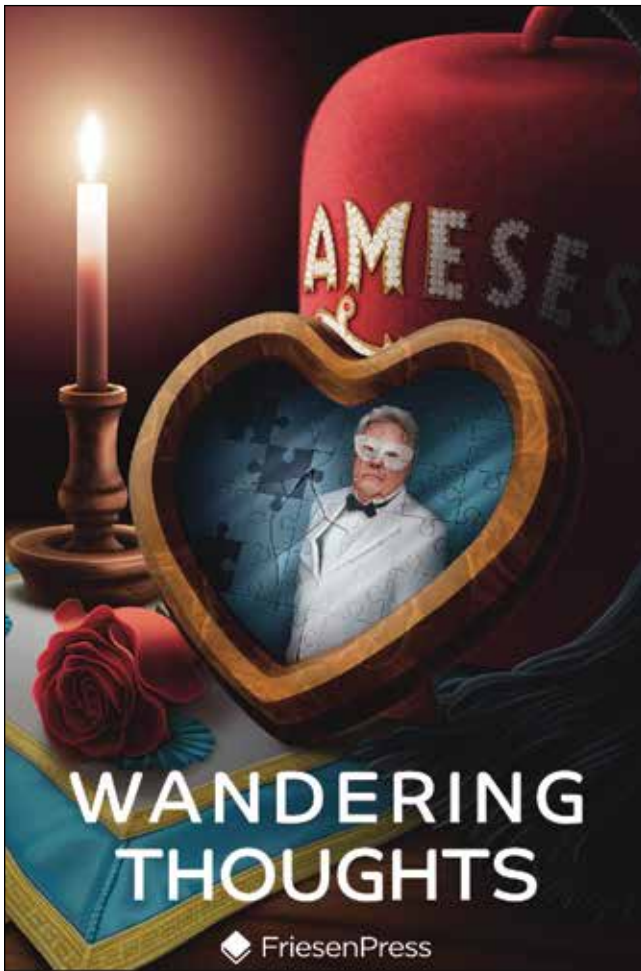
---

**THE ISLAND GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAMSON GRIEF**

Steven Mayoff

Samson Grief, an artist in PEI, keeps seeing three red-haired figments of his imagination – Judas, Shylock, and Fagin – who say they are messengers from the Supreme One who is declaring PEI to be the new Promised Land and who wants Samson to build its first synagogue.  
(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 330 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989274-97-2)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



## JOHN CROSS

This collection of poetry, prose, open political letters, lyrics, and short stories is mostly autobiographical and entirely illuminating. It is the poignant tale of a life marked by loss but also by strength of character and the will to push forward through hardship.

**ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**



204 960 0658  
 johnoross1@outlook.com  
 www.johnoross.com



**CRASH HARRISON**  
**TALES OF A**  
**BOMBER PILOT WHO**  
**DEFIED DEATH**  
 BY **DEANA J DRIVER**  
 9781927570-82-1  
 Inspiring story of Reg "Crash" Harrison's life growing up on a Saskatchewan farm in the Dirty Thirties, serving as a bomber pilot & surviving 4 plane crashes during the war, becoming a war hero, an Honorary Snowbird & more.  
 \$24.95, 176 pgs, 98 photos, 2 maps, 13 to adult, Nonfiction



**SEE YOU IN**  
**LE TOUQUET**  
**A MEMOIR OF WAR**  
**AND DESTINY**  
 BY **ROMIE CHRISTIE**  
 9781927570-84-5  
 The unique World War II experiences and love story of Canadian soldier - later turned Saskatchewan judge - Capt. Sandy MacPherson and Dorothy Borutti in France. Written by their daughter, using her parents' journals & historical records. \$24.95, 224 pgs, 66 photos, 2 maps, 13 to adult, Nonfiction



**DON'T THEY KICK**  
**WHEN YOU DO THAT? VOL. 2**  
**MORE STORIES OF A**  
**PRAIRIE VETERINARIAN**  
 BY **DR. GARY HOIUM**  
 9781927570-81-4  
 More amusing anecdotes about ornery animals and temperamental humans encountered during Dr. Hoium's 40 years at a mixed-animal veterinarian practice in southeastern Saskatchewan.  
 \$19.95, 224 pgs, 15 photos, 15 to adult, Humour, Nonfiction



Order from  
**DriverWorks Ink**

[driverworks.ca](http://driverworks.ca)

# Thistledown Press

Read what we sow.



Learn more at  
[thistledownpress.com](http://thistledownpress.com)



**JAWBONE**

Meghan Greeley

In this captivating short novel/novella, the narrator, an actor named Velvet recovering from jaw surgery, addresses “you,” her roommate and soulmate, in her video submission to win a trip to Mars, revealing the progression and complexity of their relationship in subtle prose that always gives just enough – just enough detail, just enough dry humour, and just enough pure emotion. (Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998926-00-8)

**LÁSKO**

Catherine Cooper

This novel about following signs, finding love, and losing oneself moves from Canada to the Czech Republic to New Zealand as it follows Mája, who leaves her fiancé to go to her mother’s home country where she falls in love, but then suffers from a mysterious illness. (Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-99060-134-7)

**THE LEGACY, A JOANNE KILBOURN MYSTERY**

Gail Bowen

Joanne’s former student, Val Masluk, is writing a biography of acclaimed novelist Steven Brooks, raising troubling questions about his past, and the publication of this book poses a threat not only to the future of Joanne’s son and Brooks’s daughter, who are about to be married, but also to the futures of those who love them. (ECW Press, \$36.95 hc, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-746-5, available as ebook)

**THE MARVELS OF YOUTH**

Tim Bowling

This coming-of-age/mystery novel is set in the short window between the release of the movie *Jaws* and the first *Star Wars* movie, and pays tribute to the magic of a child’s imagination. When Sean learns that the owner of the bookstore in his hometown has died, he is transported back to the year when he was 10, a year of hard work and hard lessons, along with wonder and intrigue. (Buckrider Books-Wolsak and Wynn, \$24.00 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989496-74-9)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

**new fall favourites**



*Biography/Creative Non-fiction*  
\* October 3 2023 \*  
**Rediscovering a life after tragedy**




*Fiction*  
\* October 10 2023 \*  
**Coming undone, a queer love story**



*Fiction*  
\* October 17 2023 \*  
**Magic realism set in a dystopian PEI**



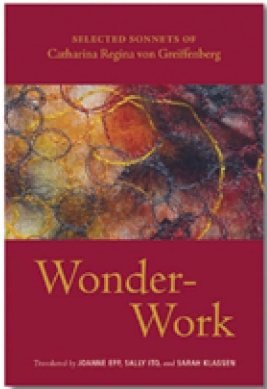
**radiantpress.ca**




**New from CMU Press  
December 2023**

**Wonder-Work**  
*Selected Sonnets of Catharina Regina von Greiffenberg*

Work of a 17th-century master in gorgeous new translations by Manitoba poets **Joanne Epp, Sally Ito & Sarah Klassen**

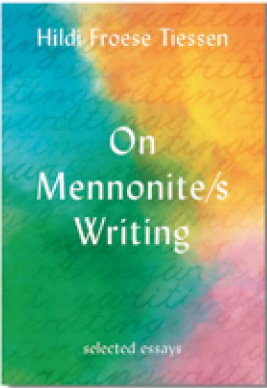




**On Mennonite/s Writing**  
*selected essays*

**Hildi Froese Tiessen**

“What do we mean when we talk about Mennonite/s writing?”



CMU PRESS | CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY  
**cmupress.ca**

**MURDER IN A MINOR KEY**

Robert J. Young

Set in Winnipeg in 1935 – a city of racetracks, hospitals, luxurious theatres, elegant restaurants, and Salisbury House counters – this crime novel follows Detective Inspector Sidney Baxter, who is blind, and his assistant Maxine Godbout, as they investigate two grisly, and apparently unrelated, murders.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-06-2)

**AN ORDINARY VIOLENCE**

Adriana Chartrand

Dawn, haunted by messages from her dead mother, has returned from her life in Toronto to her childhood home in a Prairie city – to a father who rarely emerges from his basement, a brother just released from prison, and his mysterious friend Tyler. This eerie and darkly funny horror novel explores the aftermath of trauma, violence, and loss in worlds inhabited by spirits along with humans.

(House of Anansi, \$23.99 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1188-8, available as ebook)

**PISHTACO: LORD OF THE LOST INCA GOLD**

Mark Patton

A mathematician with schizophrenia, Penelope Augusta Gertrude Farquharm sets out on a quest to find the lost city of Paititi, Peru, to destroy the evil shaman Pishtaco, who rules there, and along the way she finds herself trapped in the Amazon rain forest with the voices in her head that have now materialized as human beings. (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 220 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-225-0, available as ebook)

**THE RIGHT ROAD, AN ADAM NORCROSS MYSTERY, BOOK 2**

Yvonne Rediger

Adam Norcross has been given the task of tracking down RCMP sergeant Bethany Leith. When he finds her on her parents' farm in Saskatchewan, he is drawn into investigating a suspicious death, one that may involve Bethany's father.

(Books We Love, \$18.99 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-0-2286-2528-5, available as ebook)

**ROAR**

Shelley Thompson

Inspired by the original screenplay for the award-winning feature film *Dawn, Her Dad & the Tractor*, this profound novel is about a young trans woman who returns to her family farm in the wake of her mother's death, meeting her sister and her father for the first time since transitioning to her true self.

(Vagrant Press-Nimbus, \$22.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77471-236-8, available as ebook)

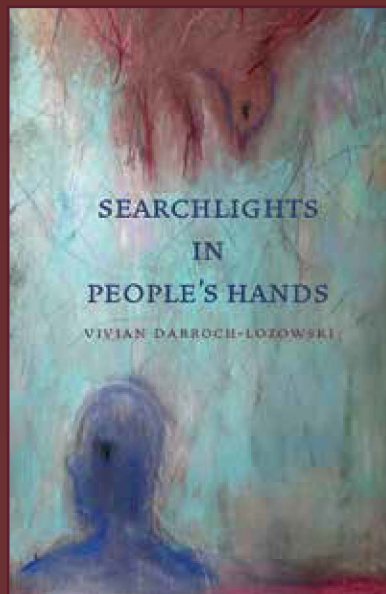
**THE SIGNS OF NO**

Judith Pond

This almost ghost story follows Rose, a middle-aged poet and teacher; Morrison, the divorced marathoner/anger-management counsellor she meets at an art show; dancer Abbey, Morrison's ex and his marathon partner; and 10-year-old Iris, the daughter of Abbey's new man. A missing daughter, a twin absorbed in the womb, a broken family – these are some of the losses, the sources of guilt and grief, that are explored in this intricate novel.

(University of Calgary Press, 348 pages, \$68.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-481-6; \$38.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-482-3; available as ebook)

Are you concerned about the political and climate catastrophes that are enveloping humanity and all else that lives on the earth?



Fearlessly written, *Searchlights in People's Hands* is a remarkable story about a community of humans, plants, and other species struggling to survive the effects of calamitous planetary changes with ways of thought and practice different from humanity's past.

Poetic and tender, *Searchlights* is a story that revitalizes human understanding of ourselves, of time, and of nature by providing an intuitive potential for a more merciful ecology on our Earth. There is healing in this book.

The author of several books, VIVIAN DARROCH-LOZOWSKI is Professor Emerita at the University of Toronto. She lives in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.



Penumbra Press

ISBN 978-1-897323-49-6

240 pages, Quality Soft Cover, \$19.95

www.penumbrapress.net

**SING A SONG OF SUMMER, A  
ROXANNE CALLOWAY MYSTERY**

Raye Anderson

The summer at idyllic cottage town Cullen Village starts off with the body of Donna Borthwick hanging from the end of a pier – only her husband is willing to believe it is suicide, and when the next death is a bit more gruesome, Roxanne Calloway is drawn in to help Izzy McBain, who is now a sergeant leading the investigation. (Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 242 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-21-0)

**STILLWATER**

Darcie Friesen Hossack

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 16-year-old science-loving Lizzy is forced by her father, an anti-vaccine nurse, to move to the Adventist commune of Stillwater in the Okanagan Valley. Have the end times begun? (Tidewater Press, \$22.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990160-20-2, available as ebook)

**SUPER-EARTH MOTHER: THE AI THAT  
ENGINEERED A BRAVE NEW WORLD**

Guy Immega

This thrilling hard science fiction novel explores genetic coding, artificial intelligence, and what it might be like to colonize an exoplanet. AI Mother-9 uses genetic engineering and artificial wombs to design a human colony enriched to survive the near-Earth environment of Valencia. (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, \$21.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-227-4, available as ebook)

**TIME TO SHINE**

Rachel Reid

When hockey goalie Landon Stackhouse is called up from the Calgary farm team, he is befriended by Calgary's superstar player Casey Hicks, and they become roommates. Soon their friendship turns romantic, and Landon begins to dread the end of the season when he will have to go back down to the farm team. (Carina Adores-HarperCollins, \$23.99 pb, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-1-335-4853-7, available as ebook and audiobook)

**THE UNTIMELY RESURRECTION OF  
JOHN ALEXANDER MACNEIL**

Lesley Choyce

This sequel to *The Unlikely Redemption of John Alexander MacNeil* tackles topics like dementia and assisted dying with humour and grace. John Alex, now 90 years old, wills himself back to life and finds Death sitting at his kitchen table. John Alex needs to muster all the wisdom and courage he has to protect those around him. (Roseway Publishing-Fernwood, \$24.00 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-639-9, available as ebook)

**YES, MISS THOMPSON**

Amy Boyes

Based on a true story, this debut novel presents the stories of modern-day Amy, her mother Betty as a child, and most prominently, Amy's great-grandmother Marjory, who immigrated to Manitoba from England with her family as a child and who became a teacher and principal, and who is haunted by a single act of terrible judgment. (Now or Never Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 298 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989689-53-0)

**So many things to get done...**

**Let us juggle them for you!**

**Get your vision in front of your customers**

We are experts at ensuring your visual communications are where they need to be, when they need to be there. We confirm every last detail has been considered, with unparalleled service. We have the experience and expertise to take the burden of projects off your mind, so you can focus on driving your business forward.

**DIGITAL & DATA SUPPORT**

**MARKETING PROJECTS**

**DIRECT MAIL**

**OFFSET & DIGITAL PRINT**

**RETAIL & COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE**

**INDOOR & OUTDOOR**

**NATIONWIDE INSTALLER NETWORK**

**EXPERTS IN CUSTOM PROJECTS**

Smartmail Marketing EXPERT Partner

CANADA POST POSTES CANADA

**SCAN HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR SERVICES!**

**Prolific Group**

**lightvisions**  
A PROLIFIC COMPANY

## Poetry collection grasps after communal ‘we,’ hostility inherent in the city

*Fourth collection by Nikki Reimer a fit for those who find comfort in melancholy*

by Ariel Gordon

### NO TOWN CALLED WE

Nikki Reimer

Talonbooks

\$18.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77201-549-2

**N**ikki Reimer is a multimedia artist, a writer, and a chronically ill neurodivergent Prairie settler. She says that her new collection of poetry, *No Town Called We*, is for anyone who finds comfort in melancholy.

“The book is an attempt to think through various difficulties, including, but not limited to, seeking to define and be part of a community, climate crisis, death of one’s elders, pandemic, chronic illness,” the Mohkinstsis/Calgary-based poet says of her fourth book.

“Though the book’s psychogeography resides in Alberta and my own aging, sick body, the complaints it brings forth are, I should think, relatable. Subjectivity inside the poems is slippery, which enacts the impossibility of true solidarity in our late neoliberal moment.”

Reimer relied on a number of texts during the writing of *No Town Called We*, including ryan fitzpatrick’s *Coast Mountain Foot*, Danielle LaFrance’s *Just Like I Like It*, Roger Farr’s

*After Villon*, Lisa Robertson’s *Boat*, and Simon Brown’s aboveground press chapbook *oh the iffy night*. Oliver Sacks’s *Migraine* and Lisa Robertson’s *The Weather* were also essential.

She owes a special debt to LaFrance, who she describes as a friend, comrade, and interlocutor.

“Danielle substantively edited the book and helped tease out and shape *No Town*’s threads, as the mess of poems was initially more confessional diaristic heartbreak, less intentional,” notes Reimer.

Once she had a better sense of the shape of the collection, a goal emerged: to poetically move through and interrogate common spaces of inquiry.



Those spaces include what Reimer characterizes as “the idea of the city, the idea of the poet, and the oil and gas culture – what some have termed petrostate – of southern Alberta, and alienation.”

Reimer worked on these poems from 2018 to 2022 and says that she was constantly grasping after the communal “we.”

“The city is always and increasingly a site of hostility

for anyone on any vector of marginalization,” says Reimer. “It’s increasingly a site of hostility for all but the wealthy. It’s hostile to disability. I was theorizing, from the subjective viewpoint of my chronically ill body, that the city, too, is chronically ill. And I was struggling, bodily and mentally, within that space.

“A concern and conceit of the book is the slippery subject, thus scare quotes around ‘I’ and ‘we.’ The poems – or the writer – chase after the lost collective possibilities of their youth.”

Reimer returned to the same questions over and over. “How do you and I relate? How might we commune? Can we enjoy our sick prostrated time? What does it mean to occupy a land? What duty of care do we owe each other? And poet, what have you done with the moon?”

There have been some constants in her writing process throughout Reimer’s career.

“I have largely been driven by what I see as unjust or what makes me mad or sad (affect as method of composition), which has then transmogrified into an exploration of the language of whatever the object of focus is. I’m often interested in manipulating found language to arrive at a sort of randomly assigned lyric of juxtaposition,” Reimer says.

Like most writers, Reimer has a full-time job in addition to her vocation as a poet.

“As poets under late-late-capitalism, we are always stealing time to write where and when we can.” 🌿



Nikki Reimer



# New translation of Tsangyang Gyatso's poetry a reminder of appeal to modern readers

*Leilei Chen says 6th Dalai Lama 'reformed the classical form of Tibetan poetry'*

by Sally Ito

## I HAVE FORSAKEN HEAVEN & EARTH, BUT NEVER FORSAKEN YOU

MA Hui, translated by Leilei Chen 莫譯  
Frontenac House Poetry  
\$19.95 pb, 96 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-989466-64-3  
Available as an ebook

*I Have Forsaken Heaven & Earth, but Never Forsaken You* is the translation into English by Leilei Chen 莫譯 of the creative reworking by MA Hui of different Mandarin translations of the poetry of Tibet's sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso (1683–1706).

Edmonton-based poet Chen first discovered the book with MA Hui's poetry (published together with a biography of the Dalai Lama) prominently displayed as a bestseller in a bookstore during a visit to China in 2018. As she puts it, "I was mesmerized basically by some of the poems when I thumbed through the book, and I bought the book and I started, just for fun, translating some of those poems."

Chen then began to publish a few of the poems in literary magazines and also to present them at literary events. People were fascinated by the poetry, and Chen was encouraged to continue with the translation.

The 70 poems that make up *I Have Forsaken Heaven & Earth* are divided into sections reflecting the four elements – earth, water, fire, and air – considered by Buddhists to be fundamental components of the universe. Each section opens with a painting by former Edmontonian and Chinese Canadian artist Mozhi Chen, whose art also graces the cover of the book.

The numerous Mandarin translations of Tsangyang Gyatso's work attest to the poet's popularity among the Chinese. "The sixth Dalai Lama was a kind of

legendary figure; he was obviously a historical person, but there were stories circulated about him mostly for two things: he was a poet famous for writing love poems, and there was a kind of conflict between his love for women and his love for poetry versus his religious and political roles in Tibet back then in the 17th century," says Chen.

"And secondly, his contribution to poetry as a genre in the Tibetan context – what he did is he wrote in a completely different style. He used the local dialect and vernacular of the Tibetan society of the region, and he kind of completely reformed the classical form of Tibetan poetry. It's a very iconic approach to literature."

His love poems were the main reason for his popularity, Chen says. "He is a kind of a romanticized figure, and in a sense, that is why Chinese readers are fascinated by him."

She continues, "Even when translating MA Hui's poetry, from the design of the book cover and the book title and the title of each individual poem, I can see how his version continued to romanticize the Dalai Lama."

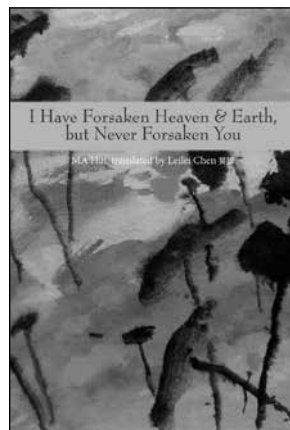
The love poems grapple with the paradoxical desire for detachment from suffering while at the same time experiencing the suffering inherent in the act of desire. This is not just the Buddhist's dilemma, but perhaps that of every human being who ventures into the world to love at the risk of being hurt.

"There's always tension there. It's also reflected in MA Hui's rewriting of the poems – you can see the tension," says Chen.

"Which speaks to contemporary readers, and it makes sense that the book has been a bestseller in China for quite a while. It addresses the frustrations and anxieties, all these feelings of contemporary Chinese readers who are often trapped within their emotions." 🌸



Leilei Chen



## MORE POETRY

---

### **ACĀHKOS: NIKAMOWINI- PĪKISKWĒWĪNA / THE STAR POEMS**

Jesse Rae Archibald Barber

This ambitious project succeeds spectacularly – the poet combines traditional Cree Star stories and their insights about our place in the universe and origins on Earth with scientific understandings of modern astronomy and quantum physics, and works to revitalize the Cree language by presenting the poems in both Cree and English.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 132 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-001-3)

---

### **AFTER THAT**

Lorna Crozier

Heartbreaking and soul-restoring, these elegiac poems light a path through grief in images of nature (herons, wasps, bats, snow) and home (frosted windows, the smell of coffee, the sound of breathing), and are interspersed with profound and sometimes whimsical advice on how to keep going.

(McClelland & Stewart-PRH, \$15.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-0428-5)

---

### **THE ALL + FLESH**

Brandi Bird

This debut collection by the acclaimed Métis writer and journalist explores illness and pain; identity, family history, and memory; and reasons for hope in the context of land and language, dislocations and loss. Honest and transformative, these poems portray and reach beyond Prairie landscapes and wounded lives.

(House of Anansi Press, \$19.99 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1182-6, available as ebook)

---

### **ANTECEDENT**

Juleta Severson-Baker

In these nostalgic, elegiac, and reflective poems, memories and re-imaginings of rural lives, dying and dead loved ones, and former selves serve to hold space, pay tribute, and reconcile, as the speaker moves into middle age.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-58-2, available as ebook)

---

### **CLUSTER FLUX**

D. S. Stymeist

This collection draws on experiences of fatherhood, intimacy, growing up in a Cree community in northern Manitoba, and gardening while fending off Crohn's disease during the first summer of the pandemic, with sections set between clanking, rhythmic, and scenic passages of railroad cars moving across the continent over crossings, through mountains, and past homesteads and cities.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-60-5, available as ebook)

---

### **SITSEEEING: WRITING NATURE & CLIMATE ACROSS THE PRAIRIES**

Ariel Gordon and Brenda Schmidt

This renga-style collaborative poetry collection was written between February 2021 and March 2022, when Gordon, writing about Winnipeg trees and mushrooms, and Schmidt, writing about rural Saskatchewan birds and animals, created a call and response tribute to nature in all its distress and glory.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 156 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-04-8)

---

### **SUKUN: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS**

Kazim Ali

These poems selected from eight of Ali's previous books along with two sections of new poems display his characteristic word play and musical language in explorations of identity, migration, and intersections of cultural and spiritual traditions.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$29.95 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-323-5, available as ebook)

---

### **THE SWAILING**

Patrick James Errington

Firmly rooted in fire-haunted landscapes that are at once psychological, emotional, and fiercely real, this debut collection burns to the edge of grief, memory, and control to find the wildness, wilderness, and wonder that remain.

(McGill-Queen's University Press, \$18.95 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-0-2280-1675-5, available as ebook)

---

### **THREE-WAY RENEGADE: \$AMUEL \$TEWARD WITHOUT APOLOGY**

Keith Garebian

Like its subject, this collection about the life of Samuel Steward (1909–1993) is playful, flamboyant, frank, and hyper-erotic. In his era, Sam was famous and infamous as a three-way renegade – a discontented literary academic, a tattoo artist, and a writer of erotic and pornographic literature – who was a friend of Gertrude Stein and Alfred Kinsey and a secret documentarian of 4,500 sexual encounters with hundreds of men.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 156 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-62-9, available as ebook)

---

### **WORLD'S END**

rob mcLennan

In this new collection, fragmented sentences and fragmented images explore fragmented ways of thinking ("We do not think in sentences" is one of the rare full sentences) and being, and provide technical discomfort to reflect the discomfort of the aging body, dislocations of place, the sorrow of loss, and the life of a father and poet.

(ARP Books, \$18.00 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-78-6)

---

### **WRACK LINE**

M. W. Jaeggli

Portraying the coastal zone where high tides deposit organic materials and other debris, the precise poems in this debut collection trace loss, guilt, and loneliness while exploring the regenerative possibilities of language, memory, and land.

(University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-953-2, available as ebook)

---

# Play set in Caribbean restaurant highlights broken immigration system

*Kanika Ambrose fictionalized countries, created new dialects to highlight shared issues*

by Rowan McCandless

## OUR PLACE

**Kanika Ambrose**  
Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing  
\$16.95 pb, 80 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-990738-26-5

The play *our place* by Toronto-based playwright, librettist, and screenwriter Kanika Ambrose is set in the fictionalized Caribbean restaurant Jerk Pork Castle in Scarborough. Working there without documentation are Andrea and Niesha from the imagined Caribbean countries of Caviva and Fanon. Rounding out the cast are Malcolm and Eldrick, the potential love interests.

Stylistically, the characters speak dialects to match these imagined countries. They had to speak in dialect to be authentic, says Ambrose, but the choice to fictionalize the dialects was made to highlight the fact that these issues are Pan-Caribbean, not issues facing immigrants from only two specific countries.

Fanonian is written in a Dominican dialect melded with Haitian sounds and Creole, and Cavivan is written in the Jamaican dialect but with Guyanese resonances. This linguistic choice works.

*our place* was first produced by Cahoots Theatre and Theatre Passe Muraille in 2022, and it won the 2023 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play.

Humorous and heartfelt, *our place* doesn't shy away from complex topics and conversations. The audience is presented with Canada's broken immigration system and its effect on people who are trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. Racism, housing insecurity, poverty, precarious work situations, exploitation, and the fear of deportation add to the characters' plights.



Kanika Ambrose

DAHLIA KATZ

Ambrose was curious about specific situations – such as risky relationships and precarious work – that immigrant women are placed in.

The play started out as two plays, one an investigation into the risks that a woman places on her body when going into a marriage of convenience, a marriage for documentation, says Ambrose. “The other person has such a huge advantage.”

The other was about two women who worked and lived together. Eventually, she realized they were the same characters.

After Ambrose developed the two women's characters, getting to know them deeply, finding out their stories, and getting them to the end point, she recognized the importance of investigating the men's stories in order to feel compassion for them without judgment.

“I wanted things to be obscured. I didn't want anyone to be right or anyone to be wrong,” she says. “There's only situation and circumstance. Each of these people is coming from specific circumstances that have brought them to the choices that they have made.”

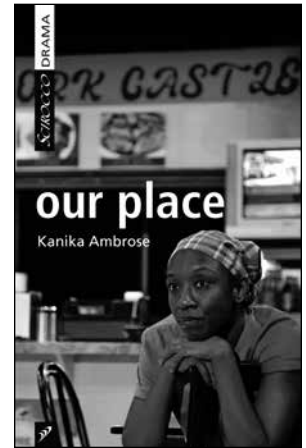
Circumstances are also a part of another thread that runs through the play – the question of love.

“There's an exploration of the theme of love and what it means to all of these people,” says Ambrose, “how the circumstances of your life can colour your understanding of love and what you accept as love.”

All of these investigations into serious issues and themes are presented with humour, and Ambrose says her family and culture have a lot to do with that.

“I'm observing it from a dual lens, from someone who has been immersed in Caribbean culture my whole life, but I also have a Canadian upbringing where I'm able to say, ‘This is unique and hilarious!’

“That makes me able to celebrate [my culture] and find the joy and bring it to my work.”



## MORE DRAMA

---

### *COWGIRL UP*

Anna Chatterton, co-created with Meg Braem and Christine Brubaker Vividly portraying rodeo culture from a woman's perspective, this play shows how three cowgirl goddesses share their legacy with barrel racer Cassidy Clark and her horse Starbright, while she competes at the Canadian Finals Rodeo. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$16.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-27-2)

---

### *FLIGHT RISK*

Meg Braem, essays by William John Pratt, David B. Hogan, and Philip D. St. John, and director's notes by Samantha Macdonald This powerful play tells the story of an unlikely friendship between Hank, a Second World War tail gunner who is close to his 100th birthday and living in a seniors' lodge, and Sarah, a student nurse with a debilitating illness – and how they face illness and death together. (University of Calgary Press, \$120 pages, with b/w images; \$38.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-471-7; \$28.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-472-4; available as ebook)

---

### *MANY MOTHERS, SEVEN SKIES: SCENES FOR TOMORROW*

Joan Crate, Cheryl Foggo, Tchitala Nyota Kamba, Sherry Letendre, Karen W. Olson, Susan Ouriou, and Linda Gaboriau At the beginning of the pandemic, the seven members of the Many Mothers Collective worked together to write and workshop dramas that focused on issues they deemed urgent – politically, socially, personally, culturally, environmentally. The resulting scenes range from a widow finding solace in the microscopic life in her garden to a futuristic vision of a global project to eliminate racism to a historical Congolese tale of a woman accused of the crime of leaving her husband, set in a modern-day trial court. (Freehand Books, \$16.95 pb, 70 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-52-1)

---

### *MATARA: THE ELEPHANT PLAY*

Conni Massing Taking inspiration from real-life debates on captive elephants, this play questions the ethical nature of zoos by weaving the perspectives of an elephant keeper, a security guard, and a newly hired media consultant as they argue over what to do with the crumbling city zoo's main attraction – the aging Sri Lankan elephant Matara. (NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-082-5)

---

### *MISTY LAKE*

Darrell Racine and Dale Lakevold Now in a new edition, this previously published play is about Patty, a young Métis journalist from Winnipeg, who travels to a Dene reserve in northern Manitoba to conduct an interview with a former residential school student, Mary – an interview that sets Patty on her own healing journey from her inherited residential school trauma. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$16.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-30-2)

---

### *NEW*

#### *Pamela Mala Sinha*

This evocative comedy follows Nuzha, a young Bengali Muslim woman who has just married Qasim over the phone and come to 1970s Winnipeg to make a life with him. While he resists such a life, she finds comfort and adventure by exploring everything her new community has to offer, changing the lives of everyone in it. (Playwrights Canada Press, \$18.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-467-0)

---

### *THERE IS VIOLENCE AND THERE IS RIGHTEOUS VIOLENCE AND THERE IS DEATH OR, THE BORN-AGAIN CROW*

#### *Caleigh Crow*

After fighting the injustice she faced as a grocery clerk – and losing – Beth takes refuge at her mother's where she begins to feed birds, leading to a relationship with a talking Crow, who shows her how to regain her power in this humorous and mystical play about how society treats the marginalized, the people living

with mental health issues, and anyone struggling to make ends meet. (Playwrights Canada Press, \$18.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-470-0)

---

### *21 BLACK FUTURES: THE ANTHOLOGY* Obsidian Theatre

In 2021, Obsidian Theatre engaged 21 writers to each create a 10-minute monodrama about imagined Black futures to celebrate Obsidian's 21st anniversary. Artistic director Mumbi Tindyebeba Otu's curatorial aim in a pandemic time was aspirational and empowering, and contributors such as Cheryl Foggo, Lawrence Hill, Keshia Cheesman, and Kaie Kellough did not disappoint. (Playwrights Canada Press, \$29.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-455-7)

---

### *TWO WAYS ABOUT IT: THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF PLAYWRITING*

#### *John Lazarus*

In this book, award-winning playwright, teacher, and critic Lazarus explains his dual approach to playwriting: constructing plot using cause-and-effect on the one hand and improvising dialogue and refining it on the other hand. He also guides the reader through other aspects of the profession, such as issues around creativity, originality, and cultural appropriation, and practical concerns like script submissions, workshops, rehearsals, and opening nights. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-29-6)

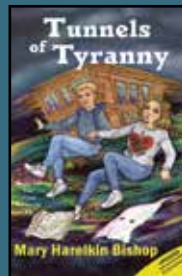
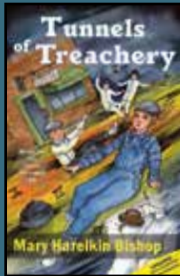
---

### *THE WEIGHT OF ANTS*

#### *David Paquet, translated by Leanna Brodie*

Two young outsiders, Joan and Olivier, at one of the worst schools in the country, run against each other for school president and come together to take action to change the school, the world, and themselves in this witty and powerful Governor General's Literary Award-winning play. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$16.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-28-9)

**MOOSE JAW TIME TRAVEL ADVENTURES  
BY MARY HARELKIN BISHOP**



Juvenile historical fiction - 9 & up - \$19.95

Updated & republished - Class sets available

Adventures 1 to 4

UPDATED WITH HISTORICAL NOTES,  
ILLUSTRATIONS & RESOURCES



Order from  
**DriverWorks Ink driverworks.ca**



**The Last Green Dragon**  
by Rud Verhagen

Raised from a hatchling by owls, Gus grows up believing he is the last Green Dragon. Then a chance encounter with a girl named Ev uncovers a secret doorway between Gus's world and hers. Their unlikely friendship forges the key to unlocking Gus's mysterious past—and leads them to a shocking discovery. But can their friendship survive this life-changing revelation?

**978-1-988783-91-8**  
\$19.95 • 5 x 7 • 200 pp  
Soft Cover



YOUR NICKEL'S WORTH PUBLISHING

**orders@ynwp.ca**  
1 • 306 • 564 • 4957



Eric Hoffer Book Awards 2023  
Grand Prize Finalist  
First Horizon Award Finalist



Next Generation Indie Book Awards 2023  
Children's Juvenile (Fiction) Finalist



Whistler Independent Book Awards 2023  
Children's Award Finalist  
(TBA Oct. 14, 2023)

**"An engaging roller coaster of a read! Highly recommended."**  
—Canadian Review of Materials



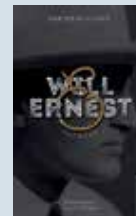
Discover our collection of bilingual books!



**La trahison / The Betrayal**

Laurier Gareau

A play about the opposition of the clergy to the Métis cause during the Batoche Rebellion.  
978-2-924237-33-5 / **\$20.00**



**Will & Ernest**

Martine Noël-Maw

A play featuring the legendary cowboy Will James.  
978-2-924237-68-7 / **\$20.00**



**La voix de mon père**

*My father's voice*

Madeleine Blais-Dahlem  
Ti'Loup seeks the affection of her shady father.  
978-2-924237-01-4 / **\$18.00**



**Bonneau et la Bellehumeur**  
*Bonneau and Miss Bellehumeur*

Raoul Granger  
A play about a secret mission to free Louis Riel from prison.  
978-2-921385-76-3 / **\$15.00**



**Paroles de chat / A Cat's Life**

Monique Genuist

An intimate tale from a cat's perspective.  
978-2-921385-46-5 / **\$15.95**



**La Maculée / Stain**

Madeleine Blais-Dahlem

A play about love and franco-phone identity in Saskatchewan.  
978-2-921385-78-7 / **\$15.00**



**Les quatre saisons de Rousse-Bedaine / The Four Seasons of Rusty-Belly**

Danielle S. Marcotte

978-2-924237-93-9 / **\$14.95**



**Corneille apporte la lumière**  
*Brandy Hanna*

An Inuit legend in French and Inuktitut.

978-2-924237-88-5 / **\$14.95**

[nouvelleplume.ca](http://nouvelleplume.ca) / [nplume@sasktel.net](mailto:nplume@sasktel.net)

# Anthology shares 40 accounts of learning from each other and the land

*Project began with Dene, then expanded with other Indigenous Peoples in the North*

by David Yerex Williamson

## **NDÈ SÌÌ WET'À?À**

*Northern Indigenous Voices on Land, Life, and Art*

Edited by Kyla LeSage, Thumlee Drybones-Foliot, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

ARP Books

\$24.00 pb, 288 pages

with b/w photos

ISBN: 978-1-927886-62-5



**A**cross Indigenous territories, land-based activities provide the opportunity to practise community-based learning rooted in Indigenous perspectives. The amazing collection, *Ndè Sii Wet'arà: Northern Indigenous Voices on Land, Life, and Art*, edited by Kyla LeSage, Thumlee Drybones-Foliot, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, began as a document of land-based learning through the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, located in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

But that work evolved into an intimate and caring celebration of the land and her role in nurturing knowledge, language, and tradition for many Indigenous Peoples.

Each piece in this collection forms part of a long and complicated love story between the land and her Indigenous caretakers, illustrating a powerful journey of reconnecting to and recovering relationships with the land as teacher and life-giver, and providing an important legacy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous readers.

More than 40 accounts share ways in which the land provides both sustenance and knowledge, often framed through the perspective of Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The relationship Indigenous Peoples have with the land shaped the development of the anthology. Co-editor LeSage explains that the land is our protector and provider, that land has an identity for Indigenous Peoples.

“It isn’t property or possession,” she emphasizes. While the stories originated with the Dene associated with the Dechinta Centre, the call for

stories eventually reached other Indigenous Peoples of the North – the Inuit, Nêhiyawak, Tutchone, Tanana Athabaskan, and Métis. The end result, LeSage states, “is a gift to the next generations that shows us who we really are.”

The idea of consent explored in some of the stories is particularly intriguing. LeSage explains that consent from the land was part of the process of harvesting, of using the gifts of the land respectfully. “Picking spruce boughs, the tree gives you what it can provide. The moose that is to be harvested will present itself to you,” she says. The Elders teach us to respect those gifts, to learn that they are gifts.

In “Land Stories,” a powerful blend of history, photographs, and poetry, Josh Barichello extends the idea of consent to relate to the outside world coming into the North for extraction. When fish are seen as trophies, and land is mined for wealth rather than sustenance, there is no consent from the land.

The land offers opportunities for generations to come together, to learn, to explore or, simply, *to be* together. Elders are an integral part of the Dechinta Centre’s program, serving as teachers and story-makers, but so too are the young people.

Together, the stories show how they learn from each other and from the land. Whether it is through the practice of hide-tanning or from stories and games, traditions and gifts are shared from one generation to the next. Perhaps most importantly, Elders like Mary Rose Sundberg ensure that stories are shared and maintained in Indigenous languages.

For many Indigenous young people, the connection to traditional culture has been impacted by colonial education, socio-economic resource extraction, and practices that divided families.

LeSage explains how activities tied to the Dechinta Centre brought young people back to the land to rediscover and reclaim identity through practice, story, and connection to Elders.

“The beauty and history of Indigenous people are celebrated. The classroom is the land or the fish hut or the walled tent.” 🌿



Kyla LeSage



Thumlee Drybones-Foliot



Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

# Humour is medicine in novel about two-spirit man confronting colonial legacies

*Journey of Nomad has parallels to author's own, Scott Mainprize says*

by Matthew Tétreault

## THE FIRST FEW FEET IN A WORLD OF WOLVES

Scott Mainprize

At Bay Press

\$24.95 pb, 350 pages

ISBN: 978-1-998779-09-3

Scott Mainprize's new novel, *The First Few Feet in a World of Wolves*, tells a poignant, but humorous, story of a young, queer, two-spirit man with Algonquin heritage who is learning about and confronting the tragic histories of colonialism across Turtle Island.

Largely set in the fictional Inuit community of Nunarjuaq Akuluk in the arctic region of Québec, where the protagonist Nomad is teaching for a year, the story presents Nomad's journey toward reconciliation and reconnecting not only to his own Indigenous heritage, but also with broader Indigenous experiences.

Guided on this journey by Inuit Elders and the wider community, as well as the tundra and creatures around him, Nomad's journey reflects Indigenous ways of relating with the world.

The novel is "about figuring out how we're all becoming guests in

other people's space and preserving the integrity of our own spaces while building relations with communities and individuals," says Mainprize.

This journey is more than simply learning about the fraught relationships between Indigenous Peoples and settler-colonial governments, but about how "we see ourselves through the relationships to everything that makes up our world."

Connecting to the land is part of that. "Everything builds up from the land," says Mainprize. "So without her many gifts, it doesn't matter what the rest of us are doing, we would not survive, and that's as true in the tundra on Great Turtle's neck, as it is on her mossy back where [we] are speaking from today."

Currently based in Ottawa, Ontario, where he is helping establish a legal support system for Ottawa's Inuit community, Mainprize has also lived and worked in Inuit communities and in northern Cree communities such as The Pas, Manitoba, where he taught a course on restorative justice

at University College of the North. Mainprize admits that Nomad's journey in many ways parallels his own.

The decision to fictionalize the narrative was important. Mainprize

explains, "I've learned in real places and learned from courageous, beautiful, brilliant people, but those aren't my stories to tell. Those are those individuals' and those communities' stories to tell.

"By situating the story in a fictional location with fictional people, I am able to share what's important to me on my journey while also respecting the sacred nature of those who have shared with me in my real world."

Besides, he adds, "I find that fictionalizing makes things more accessible to a broader audience."

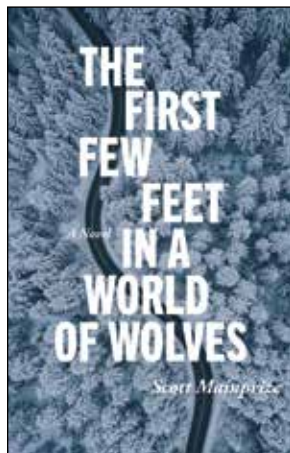
Part of that appeal to wider audiences is Mainprize's use of humour. Whether telling about the challenges of living as a vegetarian in the North, adventures raising a maybe-or-maybe-not-rabid wolf pup, or dealing with an occasionally intoxicated and talkative cat, humour offers a way through many of the novel's darker conversations about Indigenous history.

"Many of the people that have guided me on my journey have expressed humour as medicine, and I think, certainly, in a story like this where the topics are so dark at times, it's important that we don't get stuck in the darkness, or in the trauma," he says.

"I think combining the humour with the information helps to move things forward in a good way, or in a way that allows for reconciling with the deepness and importance of these issues without becoming overwhelmed." 🐾



Scott Mainprize



U O F M P R E S S . C A

# THE ART OF ECTOPLASM

Encounters with Winnipeg's Ghost Photographs

EDITED BY SERENA KESHAVJEE

Explore the history and legacy of one of the most important archives in Canada: a Winnipeg family's "monstrously extraordinary" photographs from the turn of the century.

PAPERBACK • 978-1-77284-037-7 • \$34.95  
EBOOK • 978-1-77284-040-7 • \$25.00



UNIVERSITY OF  
MANITOBA PRESS



# Poet explores geologic formations, nature of the Earth in new collection

*David Martin considers deep time, plays with language and form*

by Kyla Neufeld

**KINK BANDS**  
**David Martin**  
 NeWest Press  
 \$20.95 pb, 100 pages  
 ISBN: 978-1-77439-077-1

David Martin’s new collection of poetry, *Kink Bands*, is a veritable cave of treasures. It delves into theories of the creation of the Earth and the minutiae of elements that make up geological study.

Martin, who currently lives in Calgary, spent a lot of time in the Rocky Mountains as a child. But his interest in geology crystallized after he began learning about it from his father-in-law, who is a geologist.

“I was fascinated with the history of the science, with the language opportunities that it opened for me, and for the metaphorical resource it offered to think about all kinds of subjects, from language, to time and family life,” he says.

Martin’s previous collection, *Tar Swan*, was about the history and mythology of the Alberta oil sands. With these new poems, he was interested in expanding his poetic perspective to take in themes of deep time, and geologic formations and destructions, and to also consider modern geological and environmental concerns.

“In many of the poems, I’m thinking about stratigraphic layers, deposits of sediments that accrete over time, and so I liked the idea of creating layers of scientific/cultural/religious ideas about mountains and rocks that have accumulated throughout history,” he explains.

Readers can see these layers in the poems, as Martin plays with language and form to incorporate historical ideas and conventions. For example, “Thunderstones” explores European legends about stone tools, and its spelling is informed by Thomas Nashe’s *The Vnfortunate*



David Martin

*Trauller*. “Bedrock of Life” splits words and arranges them to resemble DNA strands to reflect the ideas of A. G. Cairns-Smith, who posited that the splitting of clay crystals contributes to cellular reproduction and evolution.

“I was interested in texts that explored notions about the nature of the Earth, often because certain beliefs have been disproven by later researchers, and it was strange and fascinating to me to read about these ideas,” says Martin.

“For instance, Thomas Burnet wrote about how the Earth was originally a perfect sphere until liquids from within its core violently erupted and broke apart the shell of what he called the ‘Sacred Egg,’ and this served as his explanation for the existence of mountains.”

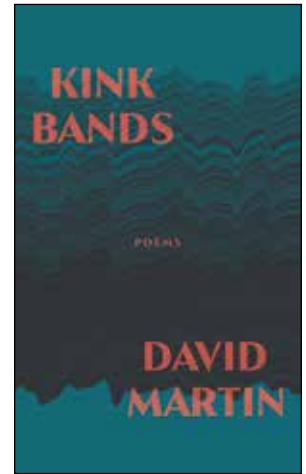
This idea appears in the opening poem, titled “Plastiglomerate,” which is a term for stone comprising sediments and other material held together by molten plastic: “This mountain’s a shredded / sin-shell / marooned after the yolk / flooded our mundane / world.”

Two poems are what Martin calls “metamorphic translations,” which take pieces of existing texts and “subject them to compression that mimics the foliation of metamorphic rocks, which have undergone exposure to extreme heat and pressure” by translating the poems into Basic English, a restricted form of English that contains only 850 words, and by removing spaces between the words.

The poem “The Canals of Mars” is tipped completely sideways, while three poems titled “Unsorted Till” spill out random lines that were eroded from previous versions of this collection in moraines across the page.

There are many gems to discover in this collection, if one digs deep enough, or, as Martin says, climbs “the beautiful and slightly terrifying” mountains high enough, to find them. ✎

Visit [prairiebooksnow.ca](http://prairiebooksnow.ca) for an additional feature article on Gnomes of Boundary Bog by Audrey Gartner, illustrated by Sheila Kasick.



## Conservation and wildlife focus of book that blends biography, history, calls to action

*Writing about Lorne Scott and Saskatchewan helped author find her way home again*

by Paula E. Kirman

### PROTECTING THE PRAIRIES

#### *Lorne Scott and the Politics of Conservation*

Andrea Olive

University of Regina Press

256 pages

\$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-963-1

\$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-960-0

Available as an ebook

**L**orne Scott is an environmentalist, naturalist, farmer, and former member of the Legislative Assembly and minister of Environment and Resource Management in Saskatchewan – a province with almost no environmental regulations, some of the highest carbon dioxide and methane emissions per capita, and less than 15 per cent of its grasslands remaining.

In *Protecting the Prairies: Lorne Scott and the Politics of Conservation*, Andrea Olive tells Scott’s life story in tandem with an account of wildlife and land conservation policy in Saskatchewan, all while emphasizing the ways in which people can do their part in conserving the environment.

“This book is not a history book. It is not a biography. This is a book about wildlife and nature. It is about birds and conservation. But it is also about getting involved and standing up for things you believe in,” Olive says of her approach.

“I use Lorne Scott’s life to tell the main story and, I hope, it is a story that will resonate with anyone interested in nature, politics, conservation, and the Prairie.”

Conservation is a topic of deep importance to Olive, who divides her time between Mississauga, Ontario, where she is a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto, and Saskatchewan, where she grew up and maintains family ties.

“This book was a way for me to find home again,” she says. “Saskatchewan is my home. I love it. It is worth protecting. As I say in the book, ‘As a conservationist, all I ever write about is love. Indeed, this book is a love story. It is about my love of nature and my love of Saskatchewan.’”

Olive had good reasons to focus on Scott. “Lorne is a community-minded conservationist. He is centred in family and community. And his community includes all living things,” she says.

Olive’s and Scott’s paths have crossed numerous times over the years, beginning when Olive interviewed him around 2010 about species-at-risk legislation in Canada and the U.S. for her first book.

This project became real when she attended the Canadian Political Science Association annual conference in Regina in 2018, and mentioned to an editor from the University of Regina Press that she wanted to write a book about Scott.

“She responded, ‘The farmer from Indian Head?’ It turns out the editor was also from Indian Head and knew Lorne. Two days later we were at the Wooden Nickel Saloon with Lorne discussing a book project,” Olive recounts.

“I certainly had no idea how deep and beautiful Lorne’s story was until I interviewed former premiers and politicians, visited his MLA archives, and read some of his writing. I was completely in awe. What a life! What an inspiration!”

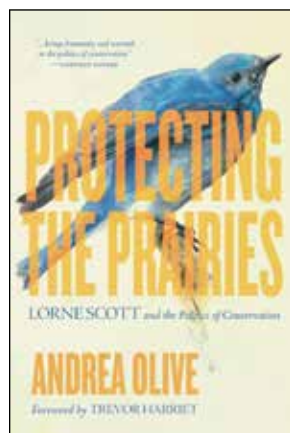
Olive’s research for the book led her to discover other surprising facts. “The Canada goose was an endangered species not that long ago! That is a conservation success story to be sure!”

For Olive, conservation is the bottom line, and she particularly wants to let readers know that “conservation does work. That it’s not too late and that anyone (and everyone) can get involved.” 🌿



Andrea Olive

CHRISTOPHER PETRAKOS



# Short stories draw from intergenerational exchanges, negotiations with nature

*Trauma, loss, getting lost and reimagined animals wind through debut collection*

by Bibi Ukonu

## HALF-WILD AND OTHER STORIES OF ENCOUNTER

Emily Paskevics  
Thistledown Press  
\$24.95 pb, 156 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-77187-248-5

In her debut short fiction collection, *Half-Wild and Other Stories of Encounter*, Emily Paskevics takes her characters – mothers, daughters, fathers, sisters – into wilderness settings such as forests, rivers, marshes, lakes, and islands, where they lose themselves and/or find what they’ve been missing.

Paskevics’s strong stories, which have been in the making for 10 years, unite families, teach growing daughters, find missing links, and heal trauma, all while reconnecting characters to the land. *Half-Wild and Other Stories of Encounter* evokes the spirit of the land, what used to be and what is left of nature in this time of irrevocable environmental change.

Paskevics, a graduate of the Humber School for Writers who currently divides her time between Toronto and Montreal, says that the ideas society holds about nature together with her own direct experiences with what is called the natural world have been a point of creative tension that directs her writing.

As she was growing up, her family was constantly going back and forth between the city and more remote regions. Paskevics says that the cabins and mobile homes in the woods or at the edges of swamps that appear in the collection are very real places that have had a major impact on her and her writing. But her experience of nature is deeper than that.

“I’d suggest that we all grow up around nature; I don’t mean this in a precious or romanticized way, but we’re in a very real exchange and ongoing negotiation with nature all the time,” she says.



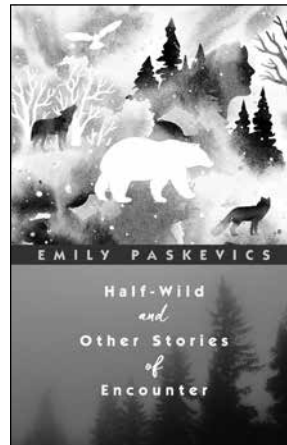
Emily Paskevics

Paskevics, in most of the stories, fictionalized or reimagined animals that she has encountered. In the story “Daughters,” where Anya takes her daughters into the wilderness to tell them the unbelievable story of her encounter with a mountain lion, and in “Half-Wild,” with its elusive wolverine, she strayed further from her experiences. Instead, she used these animals to explore

the idea of ghost species in a landscape, which are either extinct or no longer living in the ecosystem they once inhabited.

In other stories, like “Wild Girls,” the connection between the forest and humans comes to the forefront.

The stories also address issues surrounding trauma. In the story “Bear Bones,” a grieving father creates a story to help himself deal with the loss of his daughter so that she’s not hanging



in that agonizing and liminal place of “missing.” Anya, in “Daughters,” attempts to heal from her traumatic experience by telling her story to her daughters.

Inherited knowledge is important in the collection, and Paskevics says that the intergenerational exchanges she is drawing upon take place among non-Indigenous settler Canadians living on stolen land.

Her grandparents, for example, were displaced from their village in Latvia after the Second World War. “They carried certain practices or skills with them when they came to Canada as refugees: small-game hunting, gardening, beekeeping, animal tracking. They eventually re-engaged with some of these practices in their new ecological context here and passed them on as hobbies or interests through the next generations,” she says.

“They also passed on a kind of mentality that you should always have a place where you can hide if you need to, and that’s usually where the forest comes in.”

# Canada's first open access publishing house wants books to reach the broader public

*Design, accessibility, and editorial excellence guide vision for Athabasca University Press*

by Luis Reis

The Athabasca University Press was founded in 2007 as the first open access publishing house in Canada. Its mandate, like the mandate of its parent institution, is to reduce barriers to knowledge.

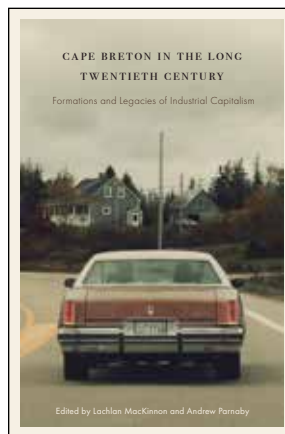
“We do this by increasing access to scholarship and literature by allowing readers to access all our books and journals for free on our website,” says Megan Hall, current director of AU Press. Athabasca University generously supports the Press’s open access activities.

AU Press uses some innovative strategies to support its books and authors. Unlike many open access publishers, AU Press does not require authors to fully limit the publication of their book to open access.

“We know that the market offers many opportunities for raising awareness of our books and visibility of our authors, so we also make print and digital editions available for sale across a worldwide network,” says Hall.

The press’s longstanding commitment to the principles of open access and the removal of barriers to ideas and knowledge has earned this company recognition from the Benetech group, a non-profit organization that creates innovative software for the social good. As a Benetech-approved publisher, AU Press has successfully demonstrated that its ebooks meet or exceed accessibility standards that support the needs of all readers, including those with perceptual (print) disabilities.

As its mandate suggests, many of AU Press’s marketing strategies are based on its interest in having its books reach the broader public. “Social media is a really important avenue for doing this as it allows us to expand our reach into communities near and far,” Hall says.



*The Athabasca University Press was founded in 2007 as the first open access publishing house in Canada.*

“In addition, we invest in making beautiful books – a great cover does the lion’s share of the work of making

a book notable and recognizable, and we want to provide our authors with the best vehicle for their work.”

AU Press is committed to high production quality and accessible design, and to creating unique packages for each of its projects. A recent title, *Indigiqueerness: A Conversation about Storytelling* by Joshua Whitehead in conversation with Angie Abdou, demonstrates this attention to design, with its use of colour, graphic

elements, photo collages, and space to convey the energy and innovation of Whitehead’s work. (This book was born out of AU’s excellent writer-in-residence program.)



Megan Hall

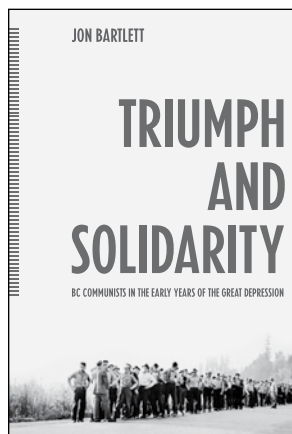
AU Press’s books are regularly selected for the Association of University Presses’ annual Book, Jacket, and Journal Show, which features the best in book design from the past year. Their books are also often shortlisted for or winners of the design awards (and others) at the Alberta Book Publishing Awards.

For example, three recent titles received attention from the 2023 Alberta Book Publishing Awards for their design: *Grieving for Pigeons: Twelve Stories of Lahore* by Zubair Ahmad, translated by Anne Murphy; *Memory and Landscape: Indigenous Responses to a Changing North*, edited by Kenneth L. Pratt and Scott A. Heyes;

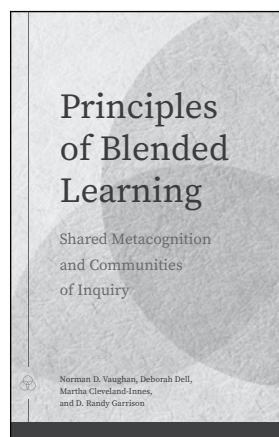
and *Little Wet-Paint Girl* by Ouanessa Younsi, translated by Rebecca L. Thompson.

AU Press titles also receive accolades from outside of Alberta. The memoir *Under the Nakba Tree: Fragment of a Palestinian Family in Canada* by Mowafa Said Househ won the 2023 Independent Publisher Award for Best Regional Non-Fiction, Canada-West, an international award.

In fact, AU Press titles have been winning awards from the beginning. Published in 2008, *Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains* by Jack Brink, a notable archaeologist from Alberta who recently passed away, won numerous awards, including the 2009 Best Archaeology Book from the Society for American Archaeology; the City of Edmonton Book Prize; and the Public Communications Award from the Canadian Archaeological Association; as well as the 2021 Felicia A. Holton Book Award from the Archaeological Institute of America.



This success is due in large part to AU Press's commitment to editorial excellence. Its publications undergo rigorous peer review and thorough editing. AU Press editors work closely with authors on their manuscripts before and after peer review to ensure that ideas are presented not only with clarity, but with refinement, that documentation is accurate, and that authorial voice is retained.



Establishing a university press is never easy. "Although I didn't join the press until 2011, I have witnessed all of the growing pains that a new publisher experiences. Coupled with our newness was our interest in pushing the boundaries of the traditional publishing model," Hall says.

"As you can imagine, not everything we've tried has been successful, but what we have developed in recent years is a really strong sense of the unique opportunity that AU Press offers to its authors and a clear vision about the impact we seek to have as a publisher." 🌿

## FALL/WINTER TITLES FROM AU PRESS

### CAPE BRETON IN THE LONG TWENTIETH CENTURY: FORMATIONS AND LEGACIES OF INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM

Edited by Lachlan MacKinnon and Andrew Parnaby

Covering the period between 1860 and the early 2000s, this book looks at the emergence, dominance, and rapid retreat of modernist industrial capitalism on Cape Breton Island, including explorations of trade unionism, state and cultural responses to deindustrialization, and the recent pivot toward the tourist industry. (Athabasca University Press, \$44.99 pb, 500 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-404-0, available as ebook)

### POLITICAL ACTIVIST ETHNOGRAPHY: STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL RELATIONS OF STRUGGLE

Edited by Agnieszka Doll, Laura Bisaillon, and Kevin Walby

The contributors of this volume examine how research can produce knowledge for social transformation by using political activist ethnography, a social research strategy that uses political confrontation as a resource and focuses on moments and spaces of direct struggle to reveal how ruling regimes are organized so that activists can fight them.

(Athabasca University Press, \$37.99 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-398-2, available as ebook)

### PRINCIPLES OF BLENDED LEARNING: SHARED METACOGNITION AND COMMUNITIES OF INQUIRY

Norman D. Vaughan, Deborah Dell, Martha Cleveland-Innes, and D. Randy Garrison

In this book, the authors further explore and refine the blended learning principles described in their first book, *Teaching in Blended Learning Environments: Creating*

*and Sustaining Communities of Inquiry*, with an added focus on designing, facilitating, and directing collaborative blended learning environments by emphasizing the concept of shared metacognition.

(Athabasca University Press, \$29.99 pb, 172 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-392-0, available as ebook)

### TRIUMPH AND SOLIDARITY: BC COMMUNISTS IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Jon Bartlett

This book follows the activities of BC Communists from the onset of the Great Depression to the coming of the Popular Front. Reflecting on the vectors of cultural resistance, Bartlett charts workers' efforts to resist wage cutbacks in mines, mills, and the logging and fishing industries, and describes the organization of opposition to the relief camps and its outcomes.

(Athabasca University Press, \$34.99 pb, 372 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77199-395-1, available as ebook)

# Essays reflect on ‘uncanny’ ghost photographs from early 1900s

*Book features collection of photographs taken during seances in Winnipeg*

by David Jón Fuller

## THE ART OF ECTOPLASM

### *Encounters with Winnipeg’s Ghost Photographs*

Edited by Serena Keshavjee

University of Manitoba Press

\$34.95 pb, 328 pages

with full-colour and b/w illustrations throughout, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-1-77284-037-7

Available as an ebook

**D**o you believe in ghosts? In Winnipeg a century ago, that was no idle question, but rather the subject of dedicated scientific study.

Along Henderson Highway in Elmwood stands Hamilton House, so named for Dr. Thomas Glendenning (T. G.) Hamilton, who lived there with his wife Lillian and family in the 1910s to 1930s, and where he conducted research into psychic phenomena.

His and his wife’s work, thoroughly documented in photos and writing, is the subject of a new collection of essays, *The Art of Ectoplasm: Encounters with Winnipeg’s Ghost Photographs*, edited by Dr. Serena Keshavjee, who currently teaches modern art and architecture at the University of Winnipeg.

Central to the book, and to Hamilton’s research, are a vast collection of photographs taken during seances showing ectoplasm flowing from mediums’ mouths and noses; faces of the dead; and tables tipping or flying into the air apparently by themselves.

Hamilton devised a technologically sophisticated array with up to 11 cameras to capture images by remote control. The events were regularly observed by outsiders with a critical eye, and mediums were physically examined before the seances. Luminaries such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle attended. After T. G. Hamilton died in 1935, Lillian continued the work until 1944.

As an art historian, Keshavjee was drawn to the photos’ aesthetic. “Their clarity, their focus on the female figure with this beautiful, organic-shaped ectoplasm, the cropping,

the black-and-white contrast, all of this fits the paradigm of modernist photos,” she says, adding they were not created as art but as scientific illustrations.

She first came across the Hamilton photos in 1997 while searching for French spiritualist photos. “The quality was incredible,” she says.

Keshavjee notes that the photos, many of which are reproduced in the book, were difficult to discover until the University of Manitoba Archives Special Collections digitized them, opening up access to a much wider audience. Archivist Shelley Sweeney contributes an essay about this digitization.

The book’s other contributors – Essylt Jones, Katie Oates, Walter Meyer zu Erpen, Brian Hubner, KC Adams, Murray Leeder, and Keshavjee herself – examine various aspects of the Hamiltons’ work.

They consider the context of the First World War and the influenza pandemic – which killed the Hamiltons’ three-year-old son – the gendered nature of scientific research, and the contribution of this body of work to Winnipeg’s reputation for weirdness.

Consideration is given to how one can evaluate the veracity of fantastic events or appearances, as well as the changing understanding of science over the decades.

“This was ‘alternative science.’ That’s the most generous term, that was still acceptable within orthodox scientific circles,” says Keshavjee, adding that Hamilton was not ostracized for his psychic research, which attracted international attention.

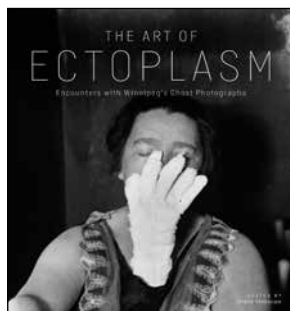
Whether Hamilton’s work is evidence of ghosts, documents intangible phenomena, or illuminates a society grappling with loss, is ultimately up to the reader to determine. But one thing is clear: a century later, these photos still have the power to fascinate.

Keshavjee notes this is likely one of the reasons why Hamilton’s work has inspired contemporary artists, including filmmaker Guy Maddin.

“They’re uncanny, they’re compelling – we might describe them generally as kind of surrealist.” 🐦



Serena Keshavjee



# Art book examines Prairie textile art as companion to touring exhibit

*Links to past, underrepresented art show current creators they're not alone*

by Alicia Chantal

## PRAIRIE INTERLACE

*Weaving, Modernisms, and the Expanded Frame, 1960–2000*

Edited by Michele Hardy, Timothy Long, and Julia Krueger

University of Calgary Press

254 pages

with full-colour images throughout

\$99.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-486-1

\$59.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-487-8

Available as an ebook

**P**rairie *Interlace: Weaving, Modernisms, and the Expanded Frame, 1960–2000*, a new art book to accompany a touring exhibition, takes a close look at textile art, such as weaving, rug hooking, and crocheting, created on the Canadian Prairies in the latter half of the 20th century. Edited by Michele Hardy, Timothy Long, and Julia Krueger, these 10 essays and accompanying photos weave a story of how these creations rose to become art forms.

Hardy, a curator from Calgary, says a diversity of perspectives in the essays was important. “We have writers from across the Prairies who come from different perspectives, different ages, different genders to try and bring some nuance to the story.”

But she knows there is always more. “This is a project that’s inherently incomplete and hopefully will be an important jumping off point for deeper inquiry in the future.”

Also of significant importance to the editors was highlighting the work of marginalized artists.

“Textiles are generally underrepresented in the canon of art,” says Hardy. “If we look at the history of art across the Prairies, textiles don’t figure prominently. There are multiple layers of amnesia at work here.”

“We discovered a lot of works by artists who have just slipped through the cracks. There are many works that have simply disappeared.”

Long, head curator of the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, agrees. “Those artists were, for the most part,

recent immigrants, or women, or Indigenous. They were on the margins in many different ways.”

Krueger, who works as an independent curator in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, shares a surprising detail about these creators.

“What’s really incredible [is that] a number of makers made these in their homes, not in [a] studio somewhere else. They were weaving in their kitchen, they were dyeing on their kitchen stoves. There’s this really interesting alternative space for making that challenges the stereotypical isolated artist that goes to the studio. And then [the pieces are] huge and incredible.”

“It’s sort of mind blowing,” she says.

Hardy also says she is humbled by “how brave and experimental and gutsy many of these artists were.”

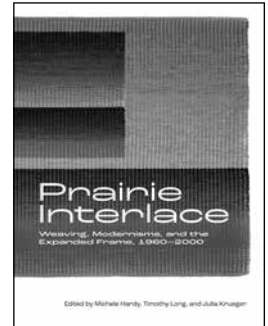
The recent resurgence of interest in textiles, including DIY making, makes this history relevant today. Long thinks *Prairie Interlace* will provide a way for current creators to connect to works that came before. “This will show them that they’re not alone in this moment,” he suggests. “There have been other moments of rich exploration and creativity that they can hopefully draw on and get inspiration from.”

While *Prairie Interlace* is a powerful work on its own, the touring exhibition adds another layer of enrichment.

“One of the threads that holds the whole book together is the exhibition, which gave rise to this publication,” Long says. “The works that the artists created that we’ve selected and included form a kind of armature for the different explorations that you see represented in the essays.”

*Prairie Interlace* will be at the MacKenzie Art Gallery from Nov. 4, 2023, to Feb. 18, 2024. For more information on the exhibition, visit [prairieinterlace.ca](http://prairieinterlace.ca).

About the in-person experience, Krueger says, “I would like people to take away a sense of wonder, and want to learn more, and start to peel away at these layers.” 🌿



# Tales born from ‘paralyzing grief’ carry on son’s advocacy, absurd humour

*Non-chronological approach aims to drop readers into heart of Jacob’s life*

by Brock Peters

## **I AM FULL**

*Stories for Jacob*

Dan Yashinsky

Signature Editions

\$19.95 pb, 160 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77324-127-2

**A**claimed Toronto storyteller Dan Yashinsky has a different kind of story he’d like to tell, one that forced him to, in his words, “let go of every conventional idea about writing I’ve ever used before.” In *I Am Full: Stories for Jacob*, he weaves laughter and heartbreak to share the story of his youngest son, Jacob.

“This book was born in a time of paralyzing grief,” says Yashinsky, who started collecting these stories six months after Jacob’s tragic death at age 26, and began compiling them into a book – narrated in Jacob’s voice – at the urging of his older son, Nathaniel.

“Imagining Jacob’s voice narrating his stories was a form of solace,” Yashinsky shares, “as well as a way to think of these stories as literature, and not only my personal recollections.”

Yashinsky has been active in Toronto’s storytelling scene for decades, and his sense for the rhythm and humour of language rubbed off on his son. Jacob, Yashinsky says, “had a keen sense of

suspense, a strong sense of absurd humour, and a wonderful gift with language – three qualities that make storytelling possible.”

A humorous thread adds an undercurrent of levity to the ups and downs of Jacob’s struggles. Jacob lived with a devastating condition called Prader-Willi Syndrome, which among other things causes behavioural challenges, hyperphagia (the inability to feel full), and in Jacob’s case, diabetes, addiction, and episodes of psychosis.

But Jacob became an advocate for people with PWS and other disabilities, delivering a stunning keynote at a Guelph gala just months before his passing – it can be found on YouTube under the title “I Am Jacob Zavitz!”

Yashinsky hopes that this book is, in a way, a continuation of Jacob’s advocacy. “I hope people realize that a PWS life can include enormous joy, humour, intellectual development, creativity, and self-expression,” he says, and *I Am Full* makes his intention repeatedly evident with its heartfelt, honest, and hilarious stories about the complexity of Jacob’s life.

The reader discovers Jacob the jeweller, Jacob the fisherman, and Jacob the proud Toronto Police Service crossing guard. Readers learn about his childhood poetry, his young-adult turmoil, and the satisfaction he found later in life, though not necessarily in that order!



“Being a non-chronological account means the reader doesn’t have the safety of a calendar-based way of storytelling,” Yashinsky says. “I think of it as a kind of 360-degree perspective, where the reader is always in the middle of Jacob’s life, no matter at what age ‘he’ is narrating.” The effect is both striking and lively, and allows Yashinsky to combine elements from different parts of Jacob’s life.

Particularly moving is the way Yashinsky connects images born from Jacob’s passing with those things that were touchstones for him in life.

“Out of a nightmare came what I hope is a book filled with as much laughter as tears,” concludes Yashinsky. “I want others to meet our son Jacob and learn why his life mattered, and how he showed such astonishing grace, courage, and wit in the face of really tough challenges.

“He was a real-life superhero, and a really sweet guy.” 🌿



Dan Yashinsky





the author's research uncovers hidden truths that threaten her friendship with Phillip.

(Random House of Canada-PRH, \$35.00 hc, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-0390-06201, available as ebook and audiobook)

---

**MY DAUGHTER'S HEART: A FAMILY'S JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE THROUGH A LIFE-THREATENING CRISIS**

Kim Jasken

The Jasken family was plunged into fear and uncertainty when, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, their 11-year-old daughter Sierra's heart began to fail. Sierra's mother describes the time spent in hospitals in Saskatoon and Edmonton and the medical tests and procedures Sierra went through to get another chance at life. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-016-7, available as ebook)

---

**OUBLIETTE**

Hannah Godfrey

This poignant partial portrait of a daughter and mother is made up of quips and reminiscences, collected scraps of conversations, and quotes from films and books that articulated the anticipatory grief Godfrey underwent during her mum's last years of life.

(Nevermore Press, \$22.00 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-777549-6-5)

---

**THE PREMIER AND HIS GRANDMOTHER: PETER LOUGHEED, LADY BELLE, AND THE LEGACY OF MÉTIS IDENTITY**

Doris Jeanne MacKinnon

This book examines two compelling public figures – former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed, and his Métis grandmother, Isabella Clarke Hardisty Lougheed, who was born into a prominent fur trading family and who was very influential in southern Alberta – analyzing how Métis identity, political activism, and colonial institutional power shaped the lives and legacies of both.

(Heritage House Publishing, \$32.95 pb, 320 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77203-459-2)

---

**SASKATCHEWAN DIRT: A PANDEMIC QUEST FOR CONNECTION**

Bev Lundahl

Lundahl's genealogical research on the early days of the settlement of southeast Saskatchewan led to conversations and eventually a road trip in the spring of 2020 with Georgina Cyr, the Métis chairperson of Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting (IGU), during which they listened to the stories of Indigenous women of the area to fill in the blanks of history and to forge connections. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 156 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-012-9)

---

**SHIFTING GEARS: COAST TO COAST ON THE TRANS AM BIKE RACE**

Meaghan Marie Hackinen

In this follow-up to her debut *South Away*, Hackinen chronicles her 25-day journey on the Trans Am Bike Race, a coast-to-coast 4,264-mile ride across North America, from Astoria, Oregon, to Yorkton, Virginia, that she completed without a support crew, racing against athletes as intrepid and adventure-seeking as she is.

(NeWest Press, \$23.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-080-1, available as ebook)

---

**A TICKET TO THE GRAND SHOW: JOURNEYS ACROSS CULTURAL BOUNDARIES**

Neil McKinnon

This memoir recounts McKinnon's time living and working in China, Japan, Mexico, Hawaii, and Alberta, showing how his perspective and understanding broaden through these intercultural experiences – how he enters the “grand show of diversity” with the help of patience, wonder, empathy, and a sense of humour.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-023-5)

---

**ESSAYS**

**ON COMMUNITY**

Casey Plett

Number 8 in the Field Notes series, this episodic personal essay asks how, and to what socio-political ends, we form bonds with one another. Plett draws on first-hand experiences and looks at phenomena from transgender literature, to Mennonite history, to the rise of

nationalism in North America to examine the implications of community as a word, an idea, and a symbol in this illuminating and essential contribution to the larger cultural discourse.

(Biblioasis, \$15.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: (978-1-77196-577-4, available as ebook)

---

**GENERAL NON-FICTION**

**ADORNO'S CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Dirk Braunstein, translated

by Adam Baltner

This comprehensive account of the historical development of Adorno's concept of economy and his critique of political economy draws upon Adorno's lecture notes, personal correspondence, and other unpublished works.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$44.00 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-632-0)

---

**ADVENTURES IN SMALL TOURISM: STUDIES AND STORIES**

Edited by Kathleen Scherf

Overtourism and the COVID-19 pandemic have shaken the travel industry, and this book provides a vision of regenerative tourism that could benefit both travellers and locals. It presents academic studies and personal stories about small tourism, which offers participatory, respectful, and celebratory methods of tourism rooted in community and cultural networks.

(University of Calgary Press, 240 pages, \$69.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-475-5; \$39.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-476-2; available as ebook)

---

**THE AGE OF INSECURITY**

Astra Taylor

The latest in the CBC Massey Lectures series takes a curious, critical, and ultimately hopeful look at the modern concept of insecurity – how people today feel financially precarious, overwhelmed and anxious, and worried about the future – and exposes the psychological and political underpinnings of how people are made to feel insecure on purpose, and what can be done to counter it.

(House of Anansi, \$23.99 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1193-2, available as ebook)

---

**ALL THE WORLD'S A MALL**

Rinny Gremaud, translated  
by Luise von Flotow

Swiss journalist Gremaud recounts her travels to and through five of the biggest malls in the world, in Edmonton, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, and Casablanca. She includes histories of their construction, and portraits of the patrons, employees, and commercial executives of these centres, and critically and ironically reflects on the globalized commerce that drives these spectacular and somewhat senseless places.

(University of Alberta Press, \$24.99 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-712-6, available as ebook)

---

**CANADA AS A SETTLER COLONY ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

Edited by Jeremy Wildeman  
and M. Muhannad Ayyash

Exploring Canada-Palestine relations through a settler colonial lens, the contributors argue that there are direct parallels between Canada's settler colonial project and its support for the Israeli settler colonial dispossession of Palestinians. The collection also illuminates the breadth and depth of Palestinian life in Canada.

(University of Alberta Press, \$44.99 pb, 368 pages, with maps, photos, figure, ISBN: 978-1-77212-685-3, available as ebook)

---

**CANADA IN AFGHANISTAN: A STORY OF MILITARY, DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL AND MEDIA FAILURE, 2003–2023**

Owen Schalk

This book offers a history of Canada's role in Afghanistan, providing an incisive, illuminating account of Canadian involvement in a war that cost lives and billions of dollars and achieved little. Schalk discusses why Canada's efforts failed and he shows how the Canadian media did not accurately report on the war.

(James Lorimer & Company, \$27.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN 978-1-4594-1766-3, available as ebook)

---

**THE CANCER PLOT: TERMINAL IMMORTALITY IN MARVEL'S MORAL UNIVERSE**

Reginald Wiebe and Dorothy Woodman  
The authors use literature in comics studies, the medical humanities, and

graphic medicine to examine the prevalence of cancer in Marvel comics, focusing on four character case studies: Captain Marvel, Spider-Man, Thor, and Deadpool. They also draw from gender theory, disability studies, and cultural theory to demonstrate how representations of cancer in comics enable an examination of power and responsibility.

(University of Alberta Press, \$39.99 pb, 376 pages, with b/w images, appendices, tables, index, ISBN: 978-1-77212-711-9, available as ebook)

---

**CHEATED: THE LAURIER LIBERALS AND THE THEFT OF FIRST NATIONS RESERVE LAND**  
Bill Waiser and Jennie Hansen

This gripping story tells how more than two dozen First Nations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta were cheated into "surrendering" their reserve lands granted to them under treaty. The Laurier Liberal government in the early 20th century justified this theft on the grounds that the land would be better used by white settlers, but in fact the land was scooped up by Liberal speculators who made a tidy profit.

(ECW Press, \$29.95 pb, 336 pages, with b/w images throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77041-748-9, available as ebook)

---

**CONTESTED GLOBAL GOVERNANCE SPACE AND TRANSNATIONAL AGRARIAN MOVEMENTS**

Mauro Conti

The first scholarly study of the new transnational agrarian movements from their perspective, this book explores how they strategize against the global governance of agriculture and outlines how they defend food sovereignty and oppose neo-liberal policies in the context of climate change negotiations.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$22.00 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-633-7, available as ebook)

---

**CREATING A SEAT AT THE TABLE: REFLECTIONS FROM WOMEN IN LAW**

Edited by Beth Bilson, Leah

Howie, and Brea Lowenberger  
In this collection, 18 female lawyers – working in a variety of contexts, such as big and small law firms, legal aid, government and politics, and the judiciary,

some with highly successful careers behind them, some just starting out – reflect on their experiences navigating the male-dominated spaces of law school and the legal profession, and on their hopes, challenges, triumphs, and regrets.

(University of Regina Press, 288 pages, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-944-0; \$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-941-9; available as ebook)

---

**DECOLONIZING SPORT**

Edited by Janice Forsyth, Christine O'Bonasawin, Russell Field,  
and Murray G. Phillips

This book shows how sport both colonized, but is now decolonizing, as Indigenous Peoples are taking physical recreational activity back. Contributors demonstrate how colonizers used sport as part of the process of dispossession of land and culture, and how Indigenous Peoples used sport as liberation from colonialism in Turtle Island, the U.S., Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, and Kenya.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$29.00 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-634-4, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



**DETERRENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY: STATECRAFT IN THE INFORMATION AGE**

Edited by Eric Ouellet, Madeleine D'Agata, and Keith Stewart

Leading experts in defence and security studies look beyond the technical aspects of the use of information and disinformation as adversarial statecraft to seek new avenues to deter the undermining of institutions and societies, treating deterrence as a concept, a policy, a social challenge, and a series of practical solutions. (University of Calgary Press, 400 pages, \$98.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-480-9; \$58.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-403-8; available as ebook)

**EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY UKRAINE: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY**

Edited by Zenon E. Kohut, Volodymyr Sklokin, and Frank E. Sysyn, with Larysa Bilous

This book provides a reassessment of the period of the 18th century in Ukrainian history, covering topics such as social history, demographics, history of medicine, religious culture, education, symbolic geography, the transformation of collective identities, and political and historical thought. (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$110.00 hc, 672 pages, with maps, figures, tables, ISBN: 978-0-2280-1699-1, available as ebook)

**THE ELEPHANT HAS TWO SETS OF TEETH: BHUTANESE REFUGEES AND HUMANITARIAN GOVERNANCE**

Alice Neikirk

Based on fieldwork with Bhutanese who fled Bhutan, resided in camps in Nepal, and finally settled in Australia, this ethnography reveals how the language of compassion in humanitarianism is used to oppress vulnerable communities and erode their rights, delegating them to the position of guests rather than citizens. (University of Alberta Press, \$32.99 pb, 256 pages, with map, table, index, ISBN: 978-1-77212-703-4, available as ebook)

**ERODING A WAY OF LIFE: NEOLIBERALISM AND THE FAMILY FARM**

Murray Knuttila

Analyzing the history of Prairie agriculture through the lenses of class,

federal policies, and global capitalism, Knuttila describes how family farms are no longer feasible, and how rural communities are losing their railroads, schools, churches, post offices, and hospitals as a result of farmers selling their land to industrial producers.

(University of Regina Press, 400 pages, with maps, tables, figures, notes, index, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-948-8; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-945-7; available as ebook)

**IN THE MAELSTROM: THE WAFFEN-SS "GALICIA" DIVISION AND ITS LEGACY**  
Myroslav Shkandrij

The first comprehensive study of the Fourteenth Waffen-SS "Galicia" Division – in which about 25,000 Ukrainians served – to address its wartime experience and its postwar fate, this book draws on archival research including interrogation records, interviews, memoirs, testimonies, and creative literature.

(McGill-Queen's University Press, 464 pages, with figures, maps, \$140.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-1652-6; \$44.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-1653-3; available as ebook)

**LAUGHING BACK AT EMPIRE: THE GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM OF THE ASIANADIAN MAGAZINE, 1978–1985**  
Angie Wong

Situating the story of *The Asianadian* – one of the country's first anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-homophobic magazines, which established a national platform for such writers as Sky Lee, Joy Kogawa, Himani Bannerji, and Paul Yee – within the history of Canada, this book celebrates and builds on the work of its creators using extensive interview material.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 200 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-029-2, available as ebook)

**MISSED AND DISMISSED VOICES: LIVING WITH HIDDEN CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEMS**  
Alexander Segall, PhD

Drawing on narrative accounts of illness, this book aims to expose the impact of hidden health problems on the daily lives of a growing number of older adults who live with chronic conditions and manage

to adapt to their changing health status and life circumstances.

(University of Toronto Press, 232 pages, \$95.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0457-1; \$36.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2340-4; available as ebook)

**NEW WORLD DREAMS: CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND THE GOLDEN NORTHWEST**

David Laurence Jones

Canadian Pacific Railway played a leading role in driving immigration to the Canadian West. Illustrated with more than 400 archival photos and colour advertisements, this book is the most extensive history of Canadian Pacific ever published.

(Heritage House Publishing, \$49.95 hc, 448 pages, full-colour images throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77203-455-4)

**NUMINOUS SEDITIONS: INTERIORITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Tim Lilburn

The celebrated poet and essayist investigates aspects of an interiority appropriate to a time and world irrevocably altered by climate change, asking such questions as the following: How will we be under these new conditions? What inner dispositions might sustain and help us bear the new sorrows of the climate crisis? Suggested possibilities include listening, noticing, reading, and stretching our imaginations. (University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 208 pages, with glossary, index, ISBN: 978-1-77212-710-2, available as ebook)

**SCHOOL OF RACISM: A CANADIAN HISTORY, 1830–1915**

Catherine Larochelle

This English translation of the award-winning book about how Quebec's school system has, from its inception and for decades, taught and endorsed colonial domination and racism extends its reach to readers across the country, bridging French- and English-Canadian histories. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 304 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-053-7, available as ebook)

# Daring to be different, this goose chose to stay in the snow for winter

*Maureen Fergus hopes tale inspires readers to take chances, live their best life*

by Laura McKay

## ZANDER STAYS

**Maureen Fergus**  
**Illustrated by Scot Ritchie**  
 Pajama Press  
 \$22.95 hc, 36 pages  
 ISBN: 978-1-77278-296-7

In her new picture book *Zander Stays*, prolific Winnipeg author Maureen Fergus shares a heartwarming story about a goose that tries something different: he stays behind when his flock migrates south for the winter.

“I have tremendous admiration for people who dare to be different – for those who choose the road less travelled because they believe that choice will allow them to live their best, most authentic life. It is so much easier to take the safe path and do what is expected of you,” explains Fergus.



Maureen Fergus

Daring to be different can come with its own difficulties. In *Zander’s* case, he is left without his community, without protection from the elements, and without any knowledge of how to survive in winter. It is in navigating those challenges that this book really shines, with themes focused on asking others for help, listening to what feels right for you, and persisting in the face of adversity.



Scot Ritchie

“I chose those themes because they fit with the story, and because they are among the guiding principles of my life,” says Fergus. “Ask for help because none of us has all the answers. Listen to your body, heart, and mind, and act accordingly. Persevere because the alternative is giving up.

“And if the best you can do on some days is to simply put one foot in front

of the other? Give yourself a hug AND a pat on the back because you are a superhero.”

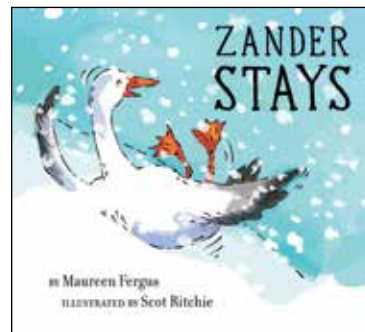
Alongside its strong message for young readers, *Zander Stays* is also a humorous read thanks to Scot Ritchie’s vibrant illustrations.

“I was lucky with the subject,” says Ritchie. “Geese are already a bit silly looking so it’s not difficult to play in the art and add humour to an already funny story.”

Given that both the author and artist are Canadian, it might be surprising that *Zander* isn’t a Canada goose,

but Ritchie felt a snow goose was a better fit for the illustrations.

“[I] thought a white goose would work best because it would be white on the snow. That doesn’t [sound] quite right at first, but a black goose would have too much contrast and white is seldom pure



white so there’s opportunity to add colour and nuance,” he explains.

This skilful use of colour is obvious in the snowy white landscapes as well as Ritchie’s cozy depictions of a home.

“I used to live in Toronto and going to cottage country was a regular pastime there. I remember cottages I went to that were rustic and cozy, in the summer or winter,” the now Vancouver-based illustrator says. “I also wanted to use the colour to make a clear contrast between the blues and whites of cold winter and the warmth of home.”

Like Fergus, Ritchie hopes that this warm and playful story inspires readers to take chances and make the most of life.

“The story is about trying new things and helping each other, so I hope young (and old) readers will come away thinking about that.” 🌿



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
Press

PRAIRIE ART IN PROFILE



Edited by Michele Hardy, Timothy Long, and Julia Krueger

NEW FROM UCALGARY PRESS • AVAILABLE WHEREVER FINE BOOKS ARE SOLD

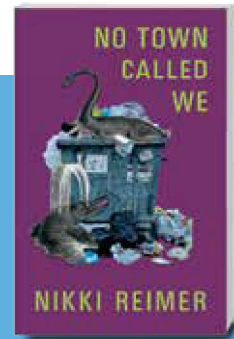
Alberta Government Canada  
@UCalgaryPress | press.ucalgary.ca

TALONBOOKS  
FALL 2023

New Release



New Release



**A Family of Dreamers**

by Samantha Nock

In this debut collection, Samantha Nock weaves together threads of fat liberation, desirability politics, and heartbreak while working through her existence as a young Indigenous woman coming of age in the city.

Poetry; Now Available

**No Town Called We**

by Nikki Reimer

*No Town Called We* writes through the death of elders, societal panic, and the climate crisis via the lens of the multiply disabled, female-coded body approaching midlife.

Poetry; Now Available

CELEBRATE PRAIRIE CREATIVITY  
NEW BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE



**New World Dreams**

Canadian Pacific Railway and the Golden Northwest

The most extensive illustrated history of Canadian Pacific ever published. Calgary historian David Laurence Jones, exploring how the CPR led immigration to the Canadian West.

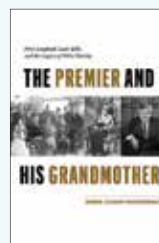
\$49.95 PB | OCTOBER



**Blue Camas, Blue Camas**

The poignant story of an Indigenous community and a group of Irish settlers who see the land in very different ways. Illustrated by Alberta artist Alyssa Koski.

\$22.95 HC | NOVEMBER

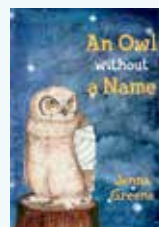


**The Premier and His Grandmother**

Peter Loughheed, Lady Belle, and the Legacy of Métis Identity

Alberta academic and writer Doris Jeanne MacKinnon takes an intriguing look at the connections between Peter Loughheed and his Métis grandmother, Isabella Clark Hardisty Loughheed.

\$32.95 PB | OCTOBER



**An Owl without a Name**

A heartwarming and inspirational story for middle-grade readers by Jenna Greene, a Lethbridge author and teacher. The novel follows a young owl's journey to discover who he is and where he belongs after he falls out of his nest.

\$12.95 PB | OCTOBER



Available at your local bookstore or online  
Find more new & forthcoming books at heritagehouse.ca



# Fiery spirit of young Métis protagonist ‘refreshing’ for readers young and old

*Cartoon-style art follows Maggie Lou through unconventional activities with her moshom*

by Penny Thomas

## MAGGIE LOU, FIREFOX

Arnolda Dufour Bowes  
Illustrated by Karlene Harvey  
Groundwood Books  
\$14.99 pb, 220 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-77306-881-7  
Available as an ebook

In her new novel for middle years readers, *Maggie Lou, Firefox*, award-winning author Arnolda Dufour Bowes evokes in readers the tenacity and adventure of childhood spirit.

Her first book *20.12m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis*, won several awards including the 2021 Danuta Gleed Literary Award and the 2022 High Plains Award in the Indigenous writer category.

For Bowes, writing *Maggie Lou, Firefox* was about creating representation for young readers. She says, “I felt that there was a space in young readers’ literature that was not meeting my children’s needs. There were no contemporary Métis stories that shared our humour, joie de vivre, or the resiliency and strength of Métis women and girls.”

Cleverly woven together with humour and love, this lighthearted

story gives us a glimpse into Métis kinship and culture. The main character Maggie Lou, or “Firefox” as her moshom (grandfather) calls her, takes readers along for a delightful ride through her days.

These include some rather unconventional activities for a young girl, such as learning to box, building a hotel for dogs with the knowledge and materials she gains from her father’s construction site, and joining her brother and uncle on a deer hunt.

Based on “somewhat true” events and characters from Bowes’s own family and life, the novel beautifully captures the dynamic and grounding Métis values of humour, tenacity, and family loyalty.

“I love being able to recreate some important family members and friends into this book, with all their zany characteristics and idiosyncrasies,” Bowes says.

“There was so much more I wanted to share, but I also didn’t want to completely embarrass my family by sharing too much.”

This book is suitable for readers young and old, Métis and non-Métis. “I feel many would be able to relate to Maggie Lou and her family’s antics, and would find her irrepressible spirit refreshing,” says Bowes.



The book sends an inspiring message of resilience, hope, and pride to young readers, and it also presents the seasoned reader with an opportunity to reminisce and honour younger selves through recapturing a childlike approach to life.

“We all have a little bit of Maggie Lou’s

fiery spirit in us – whether it’s her search for adventure, her ingenuity, her innocence, and her love for family,” says Bowes.

“Maggie Lou is a young girl who doesn’t fit into any box well; she doesn’t give up easily and is courageous beyond her years. I feel some lose these essential qualities as they age, and I hope her unquenchable spunk ignites some adventures for the young and old.”

Enhancing this fun and engaging story is the cartoon-style art by talented Tsilhq’ot-Syili illustrator Karlene Harvey, who draws readers in with her portraits of Maggie Lou and her family and friends.

Bowes, currently based near Saskatoon where she is originally from, is working on a sequel to *Maggie Lou*, also with Groundwood Books. She says she is grateful to Groundwood for recognizing the importance of telling these stories.

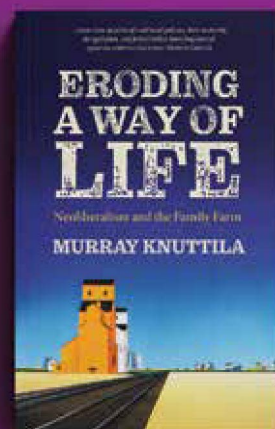
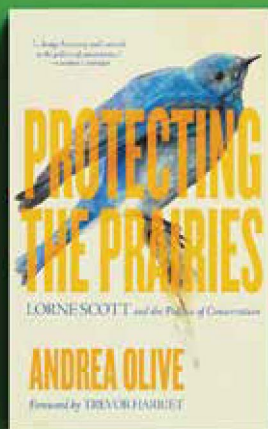
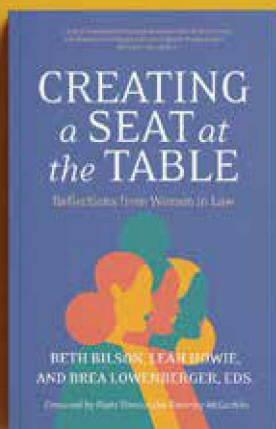
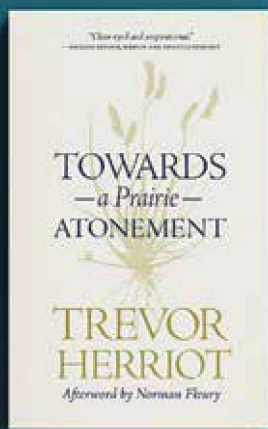
“Stories are one way we can learn to relate to one another cross-culturally,” says Bowes. 🌿



Arnolda Dufour Bowes

STELLE CO

# 10 YEARS OF PUBLISHING BOOKS THAT MATTER



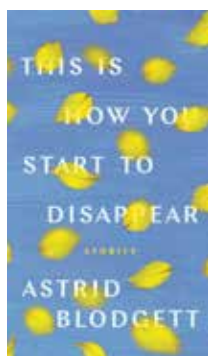
**University of Regina Press**  
10 YEARS ON THE BOOKS | UofRPress.ca



**CREATIVE SASKATCHEWAN** PARTICIPATION MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CREATIVE SASKATCHEWAN'S MARKET AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.



## UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA PRESS



A collection of twelve new tension-filled stories.

*"With compassion and acute observation, Astrid Blodgett writes about events, large and seemingly small, that can change the trajectory of a life."*

– Rachel Rose, Giller-longlisted author of *The Octopus Has Three Hearts*

### This Is How You Start to Disappear

ASTRID BLODGETT

ISBN 978-1-77212-713-3 | \$24.99 paper



### Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Canada

Edited by CLARK BANACK & DIONNE PÖHLER

ISBN 978-1-77212-633-4  
\$39.99 paper



### All the World's a Mall

RINNY GREMAUD  
Translated by  
LUISE VON FLOTOW

ISBN 978-1-77212-712-6  
\$24.99

ORDERS 1-800-565-9523 | INFO [uapress@ualberta](mailto:uapress@ualberta) | [uap.ualberta.ca](http://uap.ualberta.ca)



# YA fiction inspired by the common tick considers dystopia, manipulation of reality

*12-year-old protagonist with rebellious spirit wants to fight for something better*

by Ian Goodwillie

## THE HEADMASTERS

**Mark Morton**

Shadowpaw Press

\$24.99 pb, 450 pages

ISBN: 978-1-989398-84-5

Available as an ebook

**H**uman beings are more than the sum of their parts, and included in that sum are their experiences and their memories, which make people who they are as individuals. Identity and memory are interconnected, and without history to provide context, the self can be lost quite quickly.

That concept is at the heart of Mark Morton's debut YA novel, *The Headmasters*.

The story hinges on a mysterious event, the Arrival, which happened 60 years before the narrative begins. Most people were killed, and the only survivors are the residents of Blue Ring and their descendants.

Almost no one remembers the time before the Arrival and the Headmasters, and talking about the past is forbidden. The parasitic Headmasters take over the remaining humans, manipulating them, using them for labour, and killing them when they are no longer of use.

This status quo is challenged by Maple, the granddaughter of two of the Headmasters' original captives, who is 12 years old at the beginning of the book. Maple's desire to fight for something better runs in the family. "Like her grandmother, who decades earlier tried to overthrow the Headmasters," Morton says, "Maple is intrinsically headstrong and rebellious."

Her place in the world is key, according to Morton. "Unlike most other people at Blue Ring, whose spirits have been crushed by 60 years of brutal oppression from the Headmasters, Maple is determined to find a way to defeat them, even at the cost of her life."

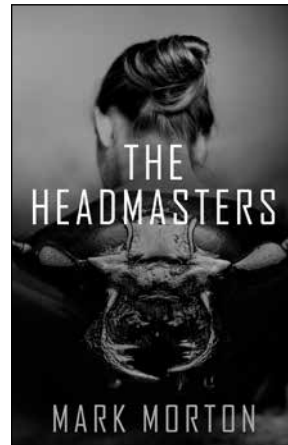


Mark Morton

The inspiration for the insidious Headmasters came from a creature familiar to many. "Growing up on the Prairies," says Morton, who is currently based in Ontario, "I always hated wood ticks. So, when it came time to invent a malignant species – the Headmasters – I imagined them to be like plate-sized wood ticks that latch onto your upper back and then burrow coils into the base of your skull."

Did anyone else just have a bout of phantom tick syndrome?

Morton describes them further: "They're able to control your actions for all but a few hours every day. Crucially, the Headmasters also accumulate the memories of their human hosts, so when a Headmaster gets attached to a new person, the memories of the earlier host go with the Headmaster to the new host."



The idea of the

Headmasters also came from another experience, one that was all too real for Morton. "Once, when I was in my 20s, I woke up from an afternoon nap and briefly had no recollection of who I was, where I was, what gender I was, how old I was, the past, or anything else."

That loss of self, no matter how brief, is unsettling to even think about.

While this story is futuristic, dystopian fiction, there is a real lesson in it, particularly in the way the villains manipulate people.

Morton explains, "The Headmasters maintain control over humans by instilling fear and by eradicating people's sense of identity and history."

People must fight for the self, both in fiction and in today's reality, where, as he says, "Even history is under siege because facts can now be contested by uninformed opinion." 🦋

## MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

### PICTURE BOOKS

---

#### *BRAVE LIKE THE BUFFALO*

Melissa Allan, illustrated by  
Jadyn Fischer-McNab

A calf learns to face the thunderstorm and develop resilience from the example set by his brave mama in this story – told in rhyming verse and charming illustrations – that will inspire readers to face adversity with a brave mindset and the support of others.

(Rocky Mountain Books, 32 pages, \$20.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77160-643-1; \$15.00 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77160-644-8)

---

#### *THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EXPLAINED*

Summer Okibe, illustrated  
by Franklin Pelumi

Okibe answers questions about who Indigenous Peoples are and the role of the United Nations, and goes through the individual rights of Indigenous Peoples that need to be understood, acknowledged, and upheld.

(Griots Lounge Publishing, \$27.99 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7386993-1-5)

---

#### *THE THREE LITTLE MITTENS*

Linda Bailey, illustrated by  
Natalia Shaloshvili

Stripes is a single mitten who doesn't match Dotty and Other Dotty, and so feels left out. But when Other Dotty goes missing, the whole idea of matching is called into question in this charming book that gets to the heart of societal expectations and issues of inclusion.

(Tundra Books-PRH, \$23.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77488-011-1, available as ebook)

### EARLY YEARS FICTION

---

#### *THE JOURNEY OF THE ANCESTORS' GIFTS, THE NGUYEN KIDS*

Linda Trinh, illustrated by Clayton Nguyen

The Nguyen siblings go on vacation to Vietnam and stay in Grandma Noi's childhood home, where they discover that they can't connect with Granma Noi using their gifts the way they can at home. This fourth book in the series, which is told

in alternating perspectives, continues to explore Vietnamese culture and identity, with elements of the supernatural, spirituality, and social justice woven in. (Annick Press, \$8.99 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77321-813-7)

---

#### *TYLER EVANS THE GREAT*

Alison Lohans, illustrated  
by Gretchen Ehrsam

Tyler Evans really wants to be a hero, so when he is bullied by Josh at school, or accidents happen, or his big brother Matt is a bit mean, he always keeps in mind how a hero would act, and eventually, after watching his brother, his friend Sarah, and his dog Gretzky be heroes, he has his chance.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-022-8)

### MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

---

#### *THE HEATHENS AND THE DRAGON: A 13TH-CENTURY ADVENTURE*

Kate A. Boorman

Award-winning Boorman's first middle years historical novel follows Elodie and her young brother Bertran (and his pet chicken), who are abandoned by their master when the Crusaders come to town. They set off to find Senhor Benet and safety, and along the way join forces with Joie, a mysterious female troubadour, with whom they put together an act – telling stories, playing music, and performing magic – for their survival.

(ThistleDown Press, \$16.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-247-8)

---

#### *OPPOSITE IDENTICALS*

Deborah Kerbel

Nova and Joule are 14-year-old twins whose scientist parents have moved them to the country on a year-long research assignment. Bookish Nova is happy with the quiet of nature, but Joule is desperate to escape. When Joule's wish comes true – that is, when she is swallowed up by a mysterious sinkhole under her bedroom floor – Nova has to lead the search for her missing sister.

(Yellow Dog-Great Plains Press, \$14.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-111-5)

---

#### *TUNNELS OF TYRANNY, MOOSE JAW TIME TRAVEL ADVENTURE #4*

Mary Harelkin Bishop, illustrated  
by Wendi Nordell

To help their grandfather in the present, 16-year-old Andrea and her 11-year-old brother Tony travel back in time to the tunnels below 1920s Moose Jaw, where they reconnect with friends and try to stop Ku Klux Klan members from carrying out illegal and racist plans.

(DriverWorks Ink, \$19.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927570-71-5, available as ebook)

### YA FICTION

---

#### *HOPELESS IN HOPE*

Wanda John-Kehewin

Grade 9 is starting off rough for Eva – at home, her mother drinks and yells and leaves, and at school, mean girls taunt her and her former best friend ignores her. Only her writing, her love for her little brother, Marcus, and her caring nohkum make life bearable. But that all falls apart when her nohkum is hospitalized.

(HighWater Press, \$16.95 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-083-1, available as ebook)

### MIDDLE YEARS GRAPHIC NOVELS

---

#### *THE SECRET OF THE RAVENS*

Joanna Cacao

Twin orphans Elliot and Liza leave their life of scrounging recyclables after they learn of Raven Quests – magical tasks that pay in cash. In search of a better life, they follow the ravens to the heartless Capital, where the tasks become dangerous, and where their devotion to each other is put to the ultimate test.

(Clarion Books-HarperCollins, \$19.99 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-35-865011-9)

---

#### *SILVERWING: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL*

Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by  
Christopher Steininger

This adaptation retells for a graphic novel audience the best-selling story of Shade, a curious and adventurous young Silverwing bat, who is separated from his colony when migrating south, and who journeys with his new friend, Marina, a Brightwing bat who has been shunned by her colony.

(HarperCollins, \$21.99 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-6216-7, available as ebook)

## Les cartes postales anciennes : des « instantanés dans le temps » pour un livre d'histoire

*Les cartes postales offrent une perspective unique sur l'enregistrement de l'histoire*

par Liz Katynski

### LE VIEUX-QUÉBEC EN CARTES POSTALES ANCIENNES

Joanne Therrien et Martine Bordeleau

Vidacom Publications  
22,95 \$ papier, 136 pages  
avec des images n/b  
ISBN : 978-1-77461-048-0

Depuis des années, Joanne Therrien a collectionné plus de 6 000 cartes postales anciennes, plusieurs de plus d'une centaine d'années. Maintenant, elle va intégrer ces images dans une série de livres historiques canadiens qui seront publiés en français et aussi en anglais.

« Je suis une deltiologiste (collectionneuse de cartes postales anciennes) depuis plusieurs années », dit la résidente du Vieux Saint-Boniface. « Les lecteurs aiment l'histoire et les anciennes photos. »

*Le Vieux-Québec en cartes postales anciennes*, le premier livre dans la série, partage des images de sa collection et des archives, offrant un regard sur les lieux du Vieux-Québec il y a bien des années. Les images reflètent ce qui était, ce qui a maintenant changé, et ce qui reste pareil.

Therrien habitait le Vieux-Québec pendant 12 ans, et travaillait sur la Grande-Allée au cœur du Vieux-Québec. Là, elle explorait la ville, prenant son lunch dans des bâtiments historiques construits il y a des centaines d'années, et elle marchait dans le vieux port.

« J'étais fascinée par les histoires de la région, les épreuves que les gens ont subies et leur survie grâce aux Autochtones qui les ont aidés. La forteresse est unique en Amérique du Nord, et l'architecture des bâtiments historiques est remarquable », dit-elle.

Ce livre sera d'un intérêt spécial pour les visiteurs du Vieux-Québec, et autres qui veulent connaître son histoire



## 'Snapshot in time' collected on old postcards for history book

*Postcards offer unique perspective on recording of history*

by Liz Katynski

### LE VIEUX-QUÉBEC EN CARTES POSTALES ANCIENNES

Joanne Therrien and Martine Bordeleau

Vidacom Publications  
\$22.95 pb, 136 pages  
with b/w images  
ISBN: 978-1-77461-048-0

Over the years, Joanne Therrien has collected over 6,000 vintage postcards, many over a century old. Now she is incorporating them into a series of Canadian history books to be published in both French and English.

"I have been an avid deltiologist (vintage postcard collector) for many years," says the Old St. Boniface resident. "Readers appreciate history and old photos."

*Le Vieux-Québec en Cartes Postales Anciennes*, the first title in the series, shares images from her collection and from the archives, offering glimpses of places in Old Quebec City many years ago. Some places are now long gone. Some have changed. Some remain much the same, as the world evolved around them.

Therrien lived in Old Quebec City for 12 years, and worked on Grande-Allée in the heart of Old Quebec. There, she remembers exploring the city, lunching in historic up-to-400-year-old buildings, and walking down the old port.

"I was fascinated by the stories of the area, the hardships people had endured and their survival thanks to the Indigenous people who helped them. The fortress was unique in North America, and the architecture of the perfectly preserved heritage buildings was remarkable."

This book will be of special interest to visitors to Old Quebec City, and others who want to consider its history in old postcards. "Readers will learn more about the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

par les images des cartes postales anciennes. « Les lecteurs vont découvrir un peu de l'histoire des lieux », dit-elle. « Ils vont aussi apprécier les contributions uniques des cartes postales anciennes aux traces écrites de notre histoire. »

La journaliste francophone Martine Bordeleau a coécrit ce premier livre dans la série, et Véronique Togneri, ancienne graphiste pour *La Liberté*, l'a conçu.

Pour Therrien, la série est un rêve devenu réalité. Elle a eu l'idée il y a environ huit ans quand elle a incorporé quelques cartes postales dans ses beaux livres au sujet de la Cathédrale de Saint-Boniface et L'Esplanade Riel et le Pont Provencher. « J'étais prête à le publier, et puis la pandémie est arrivée. Alors, ça m'a pris trois années de plus. »

La collection de Therrien comprend environ 50 cartes postales anciennes que lui a léguées sa grand-mère. Elle continue d'ajouter à sa collection et elle en a donné plusieurs aux archives.

« Les photos ou les illustrations sur une carte postale nous donnent une vue du passé », dit-elle, « et au verso, les timbres, les marques postales, et les petits mots adressés à un bien-aimé nous donnent un certain je ne sais quoi. »



Joanne Therrien



Martine Bordeleau

history of the places,” she says. “They will also discover the very unique contribution of old vintage postcards in the recording of history.”

Francophone journalist Martine Bordeleau co-authored this first book in the series, and Véronique Togneri, retired graphic artist for *La Liberté*, is designing the books.

For Therrien, the series is a dream come true. She had the idea about eight years ago when she incorporated some of her postcards into the history chapters of her coffee table books on the St. Boniface Cathedral and the Esplanade Riel and Provencher bridges. “I was about to launch it when the pandemic hit. So it was another three years.”

Therrien's postcard collection includes about 50 old postcards that once belonged to her late grandmother, and she continues to build on her collection. Some she has donated or will donate to archival collections.

“The photos or illustrations on the front of a postcard provide a snapshot in time,” she says, “and the stamps, the postmarks, and the personal messages addressed to someone special on the back provide a certain *je ne sais quoi*.”

## VIENNENT DE PARAITRE EN FRANÇAIS

### AUX LISIÈRES

Sante A. Viselli

Dans ce recueil de poésie, l'auteur se souvient de son passé, mais il refuse de demeurer esclave de ses souvenirs. Étranger dans un pays qui, dans un premier temps, ne semble pas le toucher, il s'égaré souvent dans le labyrinthe de ses regrets, aux lisières de tout, de la vie, de l'amour, de la société, de ses contradictions. Sa vie ressemble à une quête continue qui le mènera à parcourir le monde. In this poetry collection, the author reminisces about his past but refuses to remain enslaved to his memories. As a stranger in a country that initially seems distant to him, he often loses himself in the labyrinth of his regrets, at the edges of everything – life, love, society, contradictions. His life resembles a continual quest that leads him to travel the world. (Éditions du Blé, poésie, 21,95 \$ papier, 98 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-90-5)

### C'EST OÙ DONC, SAINT-COTON?

Danielle S. Marcotte

Noé, le petit avion amphibie, et son pilote Grand-Ours font des livraisons

en Saskatchewan quand une tornade se forme et brouille les communications. Réussiront-ils leur mission qui consiste à transporter un jeune inventeur à une foire et une scientifique dans une ferme pour y soigner des animaux malades. Noah the little airplane and his pilot, Great Bear, are busy making deliveries in Saskatchewan when a tornado appears behind them and breaks down communications. Will they be successful in their mission, to bring a young inventor, Jérôme, to an innovation fair and a scientist, Lissa, to a farm where she will help care for sick animals? (Presses de Bras d'Apic, roman jeunesse, 9,95 \$ papier, 40 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924722-31-2)

### LES COULEUVRES

Suzanne Régnier

C'est le mois d'avril et Madame Erthé a organisé une sortie de classe. Ses élèves se rendront en autobus à Narcisse, au Manitoba, pour découvrir l'univers des couleuvres. Les jeunes sont à la fois fascinés et réticents face à cette excursion, car ils seront à proximité de milliers de couleuvres. Qui osera les toucher? It's April and Madame Erthé has organized a class field trip to Narcisse, Manitoba, where the students will discover the world of garter snakes. The youth are

both fascinated by and hesitant about the prospect of being close to thousands of snakes. Who will dare to touch them? (Vidacom Publications, roman jeunesse, 12,95 \$ papier, 48 pages, ISBN : 978-1-77461-045-9)

### DÉLIVRE-MOI DE TOUT MAL

Louise Dandeneau

Dans son premier recueil de poésie, Louise Dandeneau nous offre une expérience empreinte d'humanité, à travers une collection de poèmes qui abordent les thèmes de la violence et de l'isolement. En se libérant des contraintes religieuses qui l'entravaient, l'autrice propose un regard nouveau, chargé de sensibilité et d'empathie, sur sa famille composée de six enfants, confrontée à la violence paternelle. In her first collection of poetry, Louise Dandeneau offers the reader a deeply human experience through poems that tackle themes of violence and isolation. By freeing herself from religious constraints that once held her back, the author tells the story of her family of six children, who were once confronted with paternal violence, from a fresh and empathetic perspective. (Éditions du Blé, poésie, 21,95 \$ papier, 112 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-84-4)

# Dispatches from a Diverse Bookstore

by Megan Wray

**W**hen did you first see yourself in a story? In a character that looks like you? Speaks like you? Loves like you? How old were you when that happened? How did it feel?

These are the questions Meghan Malcolm and I ask students – from elementary to high school age – during our workshops about the importance of diverse books. Together, the two of us run Willow, a queer-owned independent bookstore in Winnipeg focused on highlighting underrepresented voices.

We start by telling our own stories. Meghan, Willow's founder, first saw their queerness reflected in Willow Rosenberg, a bisexual character in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* – hence the store's name. It wasn't until university that I found a familiar portrayal of my mixed-race heritage in reading Fred Wah's *Diamond Grill* and Wayde Compton's "Self-Interview."

After we speak, we open the floor. Anyone in the room is welcome to share about their earliest encounters with representation while everyone else listens. It's a powerful experience – an invitation for participants to recount the first time they knew their existence was possible.

Students talk about everything from mental health to family structures, cultural food to gender identity. It's emotional for some. For others, it's the first time they've ever had to think about it.

If you're always able to see yourself on screens and pages, you might not realize that others struggle to be seen at all. And that's why diverse books are so crucial. They validate, affirm, and create language for our realities while making room for the experiences of others.

Representation is equally affirming and eye-opening. It stretches our schemas of who and what is able to exist and the ways in which it can be done. It creates possibility. If we never see people existing in ways that are familiar (or foreign) to us, it's hard to imagine that we (or others) could do this too.

The truth is that representation is not revolutionary – it's just necessary.

And while it's no secret that there's a deficit of diverse books being published, when these stories *do* get told, they're too commonly hidden on "special interest" shelves

or only briefly highlighted on timely displays.

At Willow, we intentionally bring these books to the front. Our specially-curated selection is based on the mandate we've carried with us since our origin: sharing stories to lose and find yourself in. We believe in the power of seeing yourself reflected in the world around you, and the simplest way we do this is by making stories by LBGTQ+, BIPOC, and other underrepresented authors increasingly visible and accessible.

***"...diverse books are so crucial. They validate, affirm, and create language for our realities while making room for the experiences of others."***

MEGHAN MALCOLM

We work with educators, caregivers, and community organizations to diversify their bookshelves, operate a "buy to donate" program to get more inclusive books into schools, and take any opportunity we can to discuss the importance of representation.

One of the most common pieces of feedback we receive while folks flip through the books on our shelves is, "I wish this existed when I was younger." And as beautiful as those moments are, we aim to prevent them.

We dream of a world where seeing yourself in stories isn't rare but is an everyday experience. Where you don't have to search for representation because it's proudly showcased all around you. A world where you don't remember the first time you felt your existence was valid because you've always known, undoubtedly, that it is. 🌿



DENAE MARINELLI PHOTOGRAPHY

***"We dream of a world where seeing yourself in stories isn't rare but is an everyday experience."***

MEGAN WRAY

*Megan Wray (she/her) is a queer, mixed-race Japanese Canadian writer and poet based on Treaty 1 Territory. She is the manager of the independent bookstore Willow Press and co-facilitator of Mata Ashita, an intergenerational writing group for Japanese Canadians.*

## CREDITS

**MANAGING EDITOR** Anastasia Chipelski

**EDITOR** Marjorie Poor

**AMBP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Michelle Peters

**COPY EDITING** Heidi Harms and  
Lucien Chaput

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Relish New Brand  
Experience Inc.

**ADVERTISING SALES** Michael Wile,  
m.wile.advertising@gmail.com

The views expressed in *Prairie books NOW* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers, the Managing Editor, or the Editor of *Prairie books NOW*.

*Prairie books NOW* is made possible with the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Arts Council, Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage, and the Winnipeg Arts Council.

Advertising rates are available upon request; email m.wile.advertising@gmail.com. Discounts are available for contract advertisers.

We welcome all letters to the editor and other submissions on matters of interest to readers of *Prairie books NOW*. We reserve the right to select and edit submissions.

*Prairie books NOW* is published by the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers. It is published two times per year for distribution free of charge in selected Canadian locations. Bulk rates to institutions are available upon request. ISSN 1201-5962.

Subscriptions are available for \$12.75 per year. Send cheques payable to the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers.

Printed in Manitoba, Canada by  
The Prolific Group.

*Prairie books NOW*  
100 Arthur Street, Suite 404,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 1H3  
tel (204) 947-3335  
prairiebooksnow@gmail.com  
prairiebooksnow.ca



Association of  
Manitoba Book  
Publishers



CONSEIL DES  
ARTS DU  
MANITOBA  
ARTS COUNCIL



WINNIPEG  
ARTS COUNCIL



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada



## ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**KEITH CADIEUX** is a Winnipeg writer and editor. His most recent book is *Signal Decay* from At Bay Press.

**ALICIA CHANTAL** is an editing consultant and owner of Fresh Look Editing, based in Edmonton.

**MARGARET ANNE FEHR** is a freelance writer and editor who moved from Winnipeg to Milton, Ontario, where she operates her writing practice, Effective Eloquence.

**MELANIE BRANNAGAN FREDERIKSEN** (she/her) lives and writes in Winnipeg, on Treaty 1 Territory. She is the poetry columnist for the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

**DAVID JÓN FULLER** is a Winnipeg writer and copy editor.

**MARGARET GOLDIK** is a writer and editor based in a Montreal suburb, who is currently working on a novella, as well as a collection of (true) ghost stories.

**IAN GOODWILLIE** is a freelance writer based in Saskatoon who covers a variety of topics for different publications.

**ARIEL GORDON** (she/her) is a Winnipeg/Treaty 1 Territory-based writer, editor, and enthusiast. Her next book of poetry, *Siteseeing*, will appear in fall 2023.

**BEV SANDELL GREENBERG** is a Winnipeg writer and editor.

**SALLY ITO** is a writer, translator, and creative writing instructor at Canadian Mennonite University. Her latest book of poetry, *Heart's Hydrography*, was published by Turnstone in 2022.

**LIZ KATYNSKI** is the author of *Dickies from Gunton: Canadian Brothers in Two World Wars*. Visit her website at LizKatynski.ca.

**LIZ KATYNSKI** est l'auteure de *Dickies from Gunton: Canadian Brothers in Two World Wars*. Voir LizKatynski.ca.

**PAULA E. KIRMAN** is a writer, editor, photographer, musician, and filmmaker who lives in Edmonton.

**ROWAN McCANDLESS** is the author of *Persephone's Children*, which was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award in non-fiction. Her award-winning writing appears in various journals.

**LAURA MCKAY** (she, her) is a neurodivergent writer from rural

Manitoba. She is the managing editor at Portage & Main Press/HighWater Press. Find her online at [writerlauramckay.ca](http://writerlauramckay.ca).

**KYLA NEUFELD** is a poet and editor from Winnipeg, Treaty 1 Territory. Her work has appeared in *Vallum: Contemporary Poetry*, *Rune Bear*, and *The Goose*.

**BROCK PETERS** is an editor and writer from Winnipeg. Together with his wife, graphic designer Sarah Peters, he runs a small freelancing company called Galley Creative Co.

**LUIS REIS** is a former high school principal and college instructor. Currently, he is a board member and stage director with Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre.

**SARAH SEROY** (she/her) is an Indigenous woman from Treaty 1. She is a rhetoric student at the University of Winnipeg and a freelance writer and editor.

**MATTHEW TÉTREAULT** is Métis and French-Canadian. He holds a PhD in Métis Literary History from the University of Alberta. He is the author of *Hold Your Tongue*.

**PENNY M. THOMAS** is an Indigenous (Cree/Ojibway) therapist and author who believes that storytelling is the key to healing. She lives in Peguis First Nation with her family.

**AMANDA SANDERS** lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with her husband and her six-year-old and almost-one-year-old boys.

**KIM UDUMAN** is rediscovering her love for books in her adult life. She loves caring for her plants and finding different outlets for her writing career.

**BIBI UKONU** is the author of the award-winning collection of stories *Things That Start Small but Sweet*. He lives in Winnipeg with his wife and three beautiful kids.

**DAVID YEREX WILLIAMSON** is a poet and university instructor who has been living in Kinasao Sipi (Norway House) for 30 years.

**MEGAN WRAY** (she/her) is a queer, mixed-race Japanese Canadian poet and manager of the independent bookstore Willow Press based on Treaty 1 Territory.

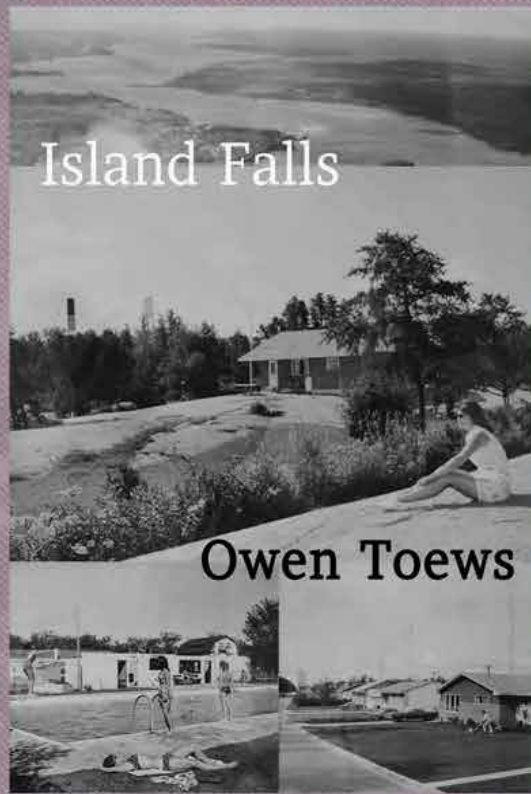
## BOOKENDS

*Prairie books NOW* values your feedback. Please send your comments to [prairiebooksnow@gmail.com](mailto:prairiebooksnow@gmail.com). In order to reach *Prairie books NOW* via phone, please call the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers at (204) 947-3335.

**On the Cover:** [iStock.com/GC402](https://www.istock.com/GC402)

## Wondering how to order?

While we wish we could pass on your orders to bookstores or wholesalers in your region, it is best for you to direct order any or all of the books in *Prairie books NOW* through the trade bookstore or wholesaler you normally deal with. The information provided with every article is there to make ordering from a bookstore or wholesaler as easy as possible.



# Fall titles at ARP Books

"At times, mclennan's poems act as a kind of soliloquy, or private declamation, overheard. Ultimately, mclennan's poetry in *World's End*, is made of the energy of domesticity, history, and quotation, as a kind of "conversion" from experience to text. Here, it is the lived encounter that fuels the event of the poem."

—Mark Goldstein, author of *Her Process & Form of Forms*

## **Worlds End,**

by rob mclennan

978-1-927886-78-6 | \$18.00 CAD/USD

"What is this strange document? An essay, a lush story, a sort-of-report, an anatomy of evil? Here, Owen Toews flips the colonial tapestry and begins to separate the threads — the group homes, company towns, unmarked graves and poisoned rivers that make up the everyplace of *Island Falls*. The result is an essential and beguiling counterhistory of life on this continent."

—Ben Robinson, author of *The Book of Benjamin*

## **Island Falls**

by Owen Toews

978-1-927886-80-9 | \$18.00 CAD/USD

order at [arpbooks.org](http://arpbooks.org)



# Past and Future Stories This Fall from Great Plains Press!



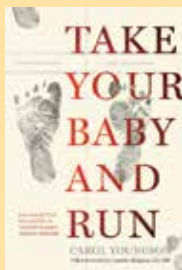
## Children of Tomorrow

J.R. BURGMANN

978-1-77337-109-2, \$21.95 CAN | \$17.95 USD

“Five Stars. An essential read.”  
—Megan Payne, *ARTS Hub*

ENFIELD  
& WIZENTY



## Take Your Baby and Run

How nurses blew the whistle on Canada’s  
biggest cardiac disaster

CAROL YOUNGSON

978-1-77337-105-4, \$25.95 CAN | \$21.95 USD

With a foreword by Lanette Siragusa, RN, MN

GREAT PLAINS  
PRESS



## Opposite Identicals

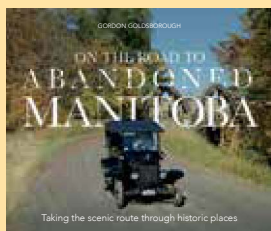
DEBORAH KERBEL

978-1-77337-111-5, \$14.95 CAN | \$11.95 USD

A JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD PICK

“A fast paced, heart pumping thrill ride.”  
—Teresa Toten, author of *Eight Days*

yellow dog



## On the Road to Abandoned Manitoba

Taking the scenic route through historic places

GORDON GOLDSBOROUGH

978-1-77337-107-8, \$35.00 CAN | \$31.95 USD

The third entry in the popular  
*Abandoned Manitoba* series

GREAT PLAINS  
PRESS



GREATPLAINSPRESS.CA

GREAT PLAINS  
PRESS

Stories that bind us