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Short story collection explores the concept of fear itself

Poet/scientist shows her mind's workings with OCD in various forms

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Commitment to ethical world view common thread in short fiction pieces

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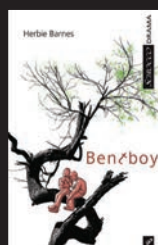
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New mystery series to follow Imogene Durant through cities across the globe

Janice MacDonald's dreams of Paris led her to first novel's location

by Paula E. Kirman

VICTOR & ME IN PARIS,

An Imogene Durant Mystery

Janice MacDonald

Ravenstone-Turnstone Press

\$23.95 pb, 360 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-792-5

In *Victor & Me in Paris*, the first in the new Imogene Durant Mystery series by Edmonton writer Janice MacDonald, retired academic Imogene Durant heads to Paris – with beloved French writer Victor Hugo as her guide – to read and to work on a followup to her notable book *Fyodor & Me in Russia*.

Imogene's tranquility, however, is short-lived. Thanks to her police detective friend/neighbour, she becomes embroiled in a mystery surrounding disturbing discoveries in local hotels.

MacDonald is known for the Randy Craig Mystery series, which was set in Edmonton. The Imogene Durant series will be set in cities around the globe, a purposeful choice by MacDonald.

"When writing the last series," she explains, "I used to get comments back about the locations that fell into three basic pots: a) 'I didn't realize Edmonton was so cool – I should visit'; b) 'It's so cool to be reading about a place I live in'; or c) 'I've come to Edmonton having read your books and am using them as my tour guide. Can I buy you a drink at the High Level Diner?'"

"And while that last category was much smaller," she continues, "it got me thinking about the whole concept of reading something *in situ*. So, then I had to come up with a logic in which my character could do that, over and over. And incidentally help to solve crimes, because whenever I get stuck when writing, I tend to toss a dead body into the mix."

MacDonald chose Paris as the first location in the series due to her personal connection with the city. "Paris

was the promise that kept me sane through the initial alienation of the pandemic and lockdown," she explains.

"I would walk to work where only one other person and I shared an entire office building floor, and visit with my excellent tiny pod of two people once or twice a week, and think to myself, 'When things open up again, I am going to go to Paris, where I will be solitary by choice not circumstance.' And Paris opened up her regal arms and embraced me."

The Victor Hugo connection for MacDonald came about as a result of visiting the Victor Hugo Museum and seeing some of his first drafts and his made-to-order standing desk. This, she says, "really brought him to the forefront of my thoughts. I went off to



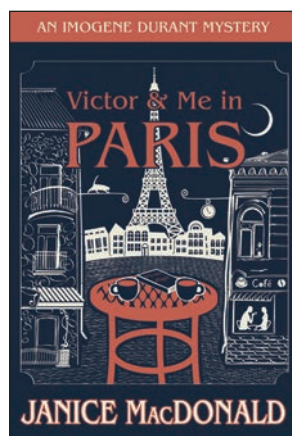
Janice MacDonald

reread him, and realized that all my earlier readings as a child, while in French, were actually expurgated versions. So, in a sense, I was reading him for the first time, even though I'd known the stories all my life."

Readers can look forward to more Imogene Durant mysteries. According to MacDonald, Imogene is currently in Ireland, "working on her book and helping out an old pal from grad school whose daughter has landed herself in the midst of a murder investigation. After that she plans to head to Florence to reread Dante."

MacDonald hopes after reading *Victor & Me in Paris* "that people fall in love with Imogene enough to go with her on some more adventures. She's an intelligent, curious, sensual, intrepid older woman embarking on a whole new chapter when some people might be written off in epilogues.

"And of course, as always, I am hoping people realize what value there is in being a reader. It's what Imogene brings to the table, and it's always useful." 🌿



Novella's experimental approach shows the world through Kid's eyes

Transness informs both structure and plot in debut from Harman Burns

by melanie brannagan frederiksen

YELLOW BARKS SPIDER

Harman Burns
Radiant Press
\$22.00 pb, 128 pages
ISBN: 978-1-998926-19-0

Harman Burns's arresting debut, the novella *Yellow Barks Spider*, is an experimental trans *Bildungsroman* that follows the protagonist, Kid, through childhood and adolescence into adulthood.

"The book is very much intended to be a manifestation of Kid's mind, and so everything we see is through his eyes," she says.

Although there are connections to Burns's life, it would be a mistake to call this a *roman à clef*. "I think a part of me was afraid to focus on [Kid's inner journey]," she says, "both because I worried readers might draw too many assumptions that Kid is some kind of surrogate self-insert on my part (he is not), and also because I worried about how much Kid and I actually do share."



Harman Burns

"I understood many parts of Kid's journey all too well, and I think there were things I needed to personally live through before I could have the hindsight to lower the rope ladder, so to speak – to lift Kid out of the darkness behind me."

To that end, Burns uses a number of textual experiments including the unconventional naming of the characters according to the way they relate to Kid, rather than with proper names, as well as some passages that are rendered without the standard punctuation, and vignettes that have as much in common with experimental poetry as they have with prose fiction.

"I wanted the text to draw people in, to immerse them, to make them feel, to place them behind Kid's eyes," Burns explains. "In order to do this, I also thought about what I called 'connective tissue,' meaning the subtle threads that work through the text to tie things together,

to connect this to that, to create sub-resonances of meaning across the book."

Burns's attentiveness to process, particularly when she talks about the way she worked out the structure of *Yellow Barks Spider*, is notable.

"Always, the North Star that guided these revisions was the desire to communicate a story," she says. Revisions included finding and filling in gaps, shuffling the order of segments, and eliminating redundancies.

"I wanted the book to flow as much as possible, to have as few impediments as possible. Any considerations of structure centred on that goal."

Transness informs not only the plot of *Yellow Barks Spider*, but it also infuses Burns's structure and experimental approach more generally. "I'm fascinated by the prefix itself. *Trans* as a state of flux, of movement, of beyondness, of not-yet-arriving-ness," she says.

"I think this permeates the formal attitudes and tendencies of the novella: things never quite settle in one place, never quite come to a landing. They shift and shiver and fade, never lingering. The text itself tries to escape traditional formalist structure, trans-ing itself across the page: neither here nor there, not quite capital letters where they ought to be, not quite concrete poetry, et cetera."

These were not conscious decisions on Burns's part. "My only goal was to express the ideas and the characters in the way that they came to me as faithfully as possible," she says. "That, I think, is the simplest expression of my task as a writer." 🌿



Short story collection explores the concept of fear itself

Some fiction informed by fact, while essays about horror bind collection together

by Ian Goodwillie

DONNER PARTIES AND OTHER ANTI-SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Keith Cadieux

At Bay Press

\$24.95 pb, 250 pages

ISBN: 978-1-998779-47-5

Everyone is afraid of something. It could be as grand as a meteor striking Earth and ending life as we know it. Or it could be as small as a spider crawling across the bottom of a bathtub. For most sensible people, it's clowns, which are somewhere in the middle.

Donner Parties and Other Anti-Social Gatherings, Winnipeg-based horror author Keith Cadieux's collection of 11 short stories connected by an increasingly eerie narrative frame, explores the concept of fear itself.

The feeling of fear is virtually universal, and these stories – which include a variety of fright-inducing happenings from traditional ghosts and monsters to demanding books and out-of-control body parts like teeth and hair – could appeal to anyone.

"There are many different types of effects of horror stories, but I do think that I'm most fixated on the idea and the feeling of fear. These stories really do emphasize the fear felt by the characters and, I think to a certain extent, each of these would be some extrapolation of a fear that I've felt," Cadieux says.

While these stories are fiction, much of Cadieux's work is rooted in fact. One example is the title story, "Donner Parties," invoking the infamous Donner Party, a group of American pioneers who spent the winter of 1846-47

snowbound in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. A few of them turned to cannibalism to survive.

"In the case of the story, the connection to the Donner Party and cannibalism seemed a natural connection

for the idea of an eating contest for cannibals," Cadieux says.

More generally, he says fact and fiction play distinct roles in his work. "Fiction tends to give me the drive to write, whereas what to write about usually comes from fact."

Exploring fear through fiction does not necessarily make this a collection of typical horror short stories, though there are certainly some that fit the bill. The stories were written over a

long period of time as independent short stories, a form Cadieux says works especially well for horror.

"It's the perfect form for building tension. Because a short story can be read in one sitting, the story can simply build and build all the way to the ending. With longer forms like a novel, you have to balance building and breaking the tension to keep a reader engaged over the long-term."

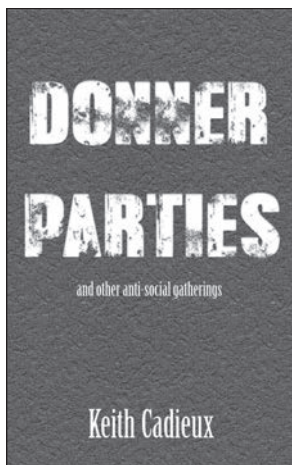
To publish the very different stories as a collection, Cadieux decided to expand on that short form by adding a frame narrative that includes short essays about horror and how it works, which, he says, "allowed me to present some ideas and then hold up individual stories, either as examples or counter-examples." The result is a strikingly innovative structure.

For Cadieux, it's a point of balancing the evolution of horror with maintaining its traditions. "I think there is some traditional horror here, yes, but I also do hope that I have contributed in some way to making horror new or contributing to evolving the form.

"Horror is derived primarily from the unknown, and so to some extent, horror must keep delving into further unknowns to stay scary." 🐾



Keith Cadieux



MORE FICTION

SHORT FICTION

AN ASTONISHMENT OF STARS

Kirti Bhadresa

Fourteen stories explore the lives of racialized women, from childhood camps and teenage rebellion to their domestic and professional lives as adults, looking at the often ill-fitting roles they try to take on and the emotions they feel the need to hide.

(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-737-3, available as ebook)

BAD HOUSES

John Elizabeth Stintzi

These surreal and darkly humorous short stories explore alienation, guilt, and instability through a fabulist lens. Each character – including a doctor discovering a double-edged cure, a college student losing body parts, and Midas’s hairdresser, to name a few – lives their own haunted life.

(Arsenal Pulp Press, \$22.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-961-5, available as ebook)

EVERY NIGHT I DREAM I’M A MONK, EVERY NIGHT I DREAM I’M A MONSTER

Damian Tarnopolsky

Moving from 1980s England to Renaissance France to present-day Canada to a world yet to come, these linked short stories connect to and reflect back on each other to mirror the complexities of self in time and in relationship with others, presenting a variety of voices, nuanced perspectives, and often dark, sometimes sweet, situations.

(Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-80-4)

MYSTERY NOVELS

BRONCO BUSTER, A “HAMMERHEAD” JED MYSTERY

A. J. Devlin

When a lumberjack games competitor newly befriended by pro wrestler “Hammerhead” Jed is found with an axe buried in his head, Jed ends the break he was taking from his PI work to investigate, leading him and his cousin Declan into the

raucous world of the rodeo in this fourth book in the series.

(NeWest Press, \$22.95 pb, 276 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-102-0, available as ebook)

THE CAT CROSSES A LINE, A MAPLES MYSTERY

Louise Carson

Gerry Conebear is back from vacation, trying to get ahead of her cartoon commitments before she has her baby, making new friends at a prenatal yoga class, and figuring out how her boyfriend Doug and his three sons will fit in to her old house full of cats, when things get even more complicated – Gerry stumbles upon a body at a local archeological dig site, and soon after finds out her new friend’s husband has died by suicide, although that seems suspicious, too.

(Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77324-144-9)

THE DEAD SHALL INHERIT, AN ELSPETH BUCHANAN MYSTERY

Raye Anderson

In this engaging first instalment of a new mystery series, Canadian Elspeth Laird returns to her birthplace in Scotland upon inheriting her aunt’s house on Sullà, one of the Hebrides Islands, only to find that someone doesn’t want her there, and a murder means she must take that someone seriously.

(Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77324-146-3)

GROUNDWORK FOR MURDER, A JEANNIE WOLFERT-LANG MYSTERY

Betty Ternier Daniels

Recently widowed Jeannie is under pressure from her adult children and a pushy real estate agent to sell her beloved farm. When the real estate agent dies in a crash, Jeannie’s problem is not solved, but worsened – it was not an accident, but murder, and Jeannie was the intended target! She and her new off-duty cop friend Derek have to figure out who wants her farm so badly that they will kill her to get it.

(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-780-9, available as ebook)

HANGING ART, NOAH CAREY MYSTERIES

Jim Handy

Noah Carey is not a typical detective – a retired historian, he gets around on bicycle and hates guns. But he is keen, and when the parents of a promising young artist who was found dead hanging in his loft ask Noah to investigate, he’s not afraid to head into the shadowy world of high-end art and to put his life on the line.

(Your Nickel’s Worth Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-033-4)

THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Anna Dowdall

Set in 1962 in the river city of Bothonville, where everyone is obsessed with the building of the world’s largest bridge, this darkly humorous whodunit, which is also part comic allegory and part fairy tale, follows Sister Harriet, who has arrived to teach in the upscale Saint Reginald’s Academy, and who quickly becomes caught up in the politics of the church and school, and in the mysterious disappearance of boarding students.

(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998926-12-1)

WHAT TIME THE SEXTON’S SPADE DOTH RUST

Alan Bradley

Flavia de Luce is back for the 11th book in the beloved series, in which she takes on the mentorship of her cousin Undine as they investigate the murder of Major Greyleigh, a recluse and former public hangman.

(Doubleday-PRH, \$35.95 hc, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3856-9820-7, available as ebook and audiobook)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

CHERYL

Jillian Fleck

Cheryl, in her 40s, is going through major transformations – she just came out as a lesbian, she’s quitting gluten, and she is determined to reach total spiritual enlightenment, only to discover that the world is a lot sicker and weirder than she ever imagined.

(Conundrum Press, \$20.00 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77262-095-5)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

THE COSMIC CON

Ron Kasman

Set in Toronto's downtown core in the late '60s, this graphic novel follows Herbie Weingarten, a teenager in his last year of high school, who is trying to extricate his uncle, a Holocaust survivor, from a group of believers in a new religious movement, Exalted Consciousness.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-45-1, available as ebook)

COUSIN BEAR COMES TO VISIT

Halie Finney

Exploring themes of family, nostalgia, and grief, this graphic novel introduces readers to Francis the Bear, who is preparing for a visit and catch-up with her cousin. After a lovely day together, Francis discovers Cousin's secret.

(Conundrum Press, \$10.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77262-099-3)

CRADLE'S END, BOOK 6 OF SHAME SERIES

Lovern Kindzierski, illustrated

by John Bolton

In this latest instalment of the dark fantasy series, Hope and Merritt journey deeper into Cradle to heal the wound that could allow the demons of hell into the world, while Shame tries to recover her powers and free herself and her allies. Will Hope and Merritt stop Shame in time to save the world?

(Renegade Arts Entertainment, \$17.99 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989754-57-3)

THE FORGOTTEN FRONTIER

Tristan Jones, illustrated by

Alexander Bumbulut

Tristan Jones, who identifies as Black and Indigenous, retells the story of the Western Frontier through the lens of Truth and Reconciliation, focusing on the missing Indigenous narrative, and creating a link to the past while imagining a path forward.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-43-7, available as ebook)

JUST HAPPY TO SEE YOU

Shea Proulx

Psychedelic visual narratives combine with hilarious punchlines to create bizarre and captivating sequential art,

covering such items as pandemic cocktails, murderous clones, and singing flowers.

(Conundrum Press, \$10.00 pb, 204 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77262-098-6)

POUND FOR POUND, CURB ANGELS, VOL. 2

Nyala Ali, illustrated by Lisa Mendis

The powerhouse team of three young women – Waffles, Reiko, and Julia – from very different backgrounds again ventures into the world of slave trafficking, this time in London, England.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-41-3, available as ebook)

ROTH, BOOK I OF WHEETAGO WAR SERIES

Richard Van Camp, illustrated

by Christopher Shy

The first in a new and scary graphic novel series, *Roth* follows the Child Finder, who is fighting to cling to his humanity after a Wheetago attack, a mother and her young son, and a desperate band of convicts, who all form an alliance to survive the newly awakened Wheetago.

(Renegade Arts Entertainment, \$29.99 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989754-22-1)

TWILIGHT OF ECHELON

Lovern Kindzierski, Blaize Moritz,

Alex Passey, and D. G. Valdron,

illustrated by Robert Pasternak

In this exciting collaboration, artist Robert Pasternak has created the world of Echelon, and four authors are challenged to write stories set in it, with only the gorgeous silver-toned illustrations to work from, resulting in four distinct narratives.

(At Bay Press, \$26.95 pb, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-44-4, available as ebook)

OTHER NOVELS**AFTER WE DROWNED**

Jill Yonit Goldberg

Set in 1984 Louisiana and told in the voices of 15-year-old Jesse and his father, Emmett, this Southern Gothic-style novel about environmental crisis and poverty tells how a family unravels after the oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico explodes, with Emmett drinking and leaving, and Jesse struggling to become a man.

(Anvil Press, \$22.00 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-227-3)

BAD LAND

Corinna Chong

Amid the dinosaur bones and hills of the Alberta badlands, Regina tells how her quiet life is upended when her brother comes home after seven years away with his six-year-old daughter, Jez. Secrets are unearthed, in this story about guilt, memory, and truth.

(Arsenal Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-959-2, available as ebook)

BEAST

Richard Van Camp

This gripping YA/adult crossover novel begins with the breakdown of the Treaty between the Dogrib and Chipewyan nations of the Northwest Territories, and explores, through realism and horror, the power of tradition versus the pull of a vengeful past. Lawson must try to keep the peace (without the help of adults) when Silver Crane, fresh out of jail and in the service of a ghoulish servant, is doing everything in his power to destroy it.

(Douglas & McIntyre, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77162-414-5, available as ebook)

COLOURS IN HER HANDS

Alice Zorn

Mina, a young woman with Down Syndrome, is at the centre of this novel about family, art, and the labels that society puts on those who are different. It also follows Bruno, her brother and legal guardian; Gabriela, Bruno's partner; and Iris, a clothing designer who recognizes and supports Mina's textile art, especially her use of colour in embroidery and knitting.

(Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-77-4)

THE DARK KING SWALLOWS THE WORLD

Robert G. Penner

This haunting and engaging dark fantasy novel follows young Nora during the Second World War in Cornwall, as she journeys to the land of the dead to bring back her half-brother who was killed in an accident and to heal her mother's grief.

(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 254 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998926-15-2)

HIROSHIMA BOMB MONEY**Terry Watada**

Through the lives of three siblings during the years 1930 to 1945, this rich historical novel looks at the Second World War from a Japanese perspective. The youngest sister immigrates to Canada to experience a brutal immigration process, a troubled marriage, and internment; the brother joins the military to fight in China; and the oldest sister is in Hiroshima when the atom bomb hit, and she loses her twin babies. (NeWest Press, \$22.95 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-100-6, available as ebook)

I THINK WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE**Suzu Krause**

Nineteen-year-old Nora is getting over her broken heart by starting over in Berlin. Meanwhile, at home in Saskatchewan, her father, Marlen, is diagnosed with terminal cancer, and, before the family can process that, a double gamma ray burst means the world will end in a couple of months. Nora needs to get home, where her family members are each dealing with their mortality in their own ways. For all of them, everything seems eerily familiar. (Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998926-22-0)

IN WINTER I GET UP AT NIGHT**Jane Urquhart**

Weaving narratives of the different times of her life, this subtle and stunning historical novel tells the story of Emer McConnell, an itinerant music and art teacher in rural Saskatchewan, who as a child survived but was forever changed by a tornado and her resulting injuries. The time she spent recovering in hospital, her love affair with the scientist she calls Harp, and her family relationships are all revealed in a delicate yet profound exploration of colonial expansion, scientific progress, and racial and cultural divisions. (McClelland & Stewart-PRH, \$36.00 hc, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-5199-9, available as ebook and audiobook)

JUICEBOXERS**Benjamin Hertwig**

Based on the author's experiences as a soldier in Afghanistan, this novel explores questions of masculinity and militarism, friendship and loss, violence and trauma,

and ideology and innocence, tracing teenager Plinko's journey from basic military training in Saskatchewan, to high school and the reserves in Edmonton, and, after 9/11, to the battlefields of Kandahar, and then to the oil fields of Alberta. (Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-71-2)

MOON HONEY**Suzette Mayr**

This new Landmark Edition of Mayr's debut novel exploring love, racism, and magical transformations includes an author interview with Karina Vernon and an afterword by poet and novelist Kaie Kellough. (NeWest Press, \$23.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-104-4, available as ebook)

REAL ONES**katherena vermette**

June, an academic, and her sister, Lyn, a pottery artist, are real NDNs – Michif on their father's side – but their mother, the very white Renee, has been establishing her art career under the name Raven Bearclaw, and is called out as a "pretendian," pulling June and Lyn into a messy online backlash and unresolved childhood trauma, in this probing and ultimately hopeful novel. (Hamish Hamilton-PRH, \$35.00 hc, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-4750-5, available as ebook and audiobook)

SUGARING OFF**Fanny Britt, translated by Susan Ouriou**

In an eviscerating critique of privilege, this novel examines the complexity of relationships. While Adam and Marion seem successful and in love, when Adam injures a young woman leaving her financially at risk, the loneliness, rage, and desires that have been festering below the surface break into the open. (Book*hug Press, \$24.95 pb, 214 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77166-908-5)

THIS BRIGHT DUST**Nina Berkhout**

In 1939, the Great Depression is winding down and the Great War is looming. Abel Dodds, who is desperately trying to make a living on his prairie farm of dust and disillusionment, has also agreed to keep an eye on his neighbours, Una Wishart

and her son and grandfather, despite Una wanting to keep her distance. News of a visit from the king and queen to rally troops gives Una hope, but Abel is not impressed, adding tension to this story of disaster and the cultivation of hope, and of the relationship between people and the land.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$25.00 pb, 242 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-416-4)

THIS IS IT**Matthew Fox**

This funny and charming novel, with playful metafictional elements, presents Giovanni Zappacosta-O'Hara, a gay Italian Canadian designer, who goes to New York to research his family history, partly to avoid dealing with his partner's cancer, but eventually to achieve some sort of redemption.

(Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains, \$27.95 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-120-7)

THE UNWEAVING**Cheryl Parisien**

Set in 1869, when the surveyors from the Dominion of Canada show up in the Red River community, this debut novel follows the Rougeaus, a Métis family: Clément, who is trying to maintain his livelihood as a carter; his wife, Marienne, who is determined to hold their family together; Julien, the eldest son, who joins Louis Riel to confront the surveyors; and his sister Charlotte, who is impressed by those same intruders.

(Tidewater Press, \$24.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990160-40-0, available as ebook)

WHEN ANNA PEARL LAY DOWN IN THE GARDEN**Deborah Schnitzer**

When Anna, a whimsical and wild gardener newly widowed and estranged from her adult daughter, is discovered by her neighbour face down in her front garden, he gets her son to return home to manage his mother's behaviour. During the following three-day vigil, suspended between life and death, Anna brings together her son and daughter and releases truths long denied.

(Turnstone Press, \$23.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-789-5)

Poet/scientist shows her mind's workings with OCD in various forms

Deep commitment to whimsy, value of observation overlap in Jones's dual life

by Ariel Gordon

ATTIC RAIN

Samantha Jones

NeWest Press

\$21.00, 104 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77439-098-6

Available as an ebook

Samantha Jones is a poet and earth/ocean scientist with OCD and a deep commitment to whimsy.

"I think play and whimsy are so important for innovation, whether in poetry or science," says the Calgary-based writer. "Occupying a whimsical place also brings a levity to my work, which can be quite serious if it is writing about mental health or working on earth and climate science topics. Perhaps whimsy is also somewhat of a free and playful counterbalance to the gravity of OCD?"

In addition to publishing her debut poetry collection, *Attic Rain*, working with editor Jennifer Bowering Delisle to make sure each poem contributed to the whole, Jones has been undertaking another huge project. She's currently a PhD candidate in geography at the University of Calgary, doing research in the Arctic.

"It feels like living a bit of a dual life sometimes, though my poetry and science seem to be on a collision course and are becoming more and more intertwined as time goes on," notes Jones.

"There are numerous manifestations of my science experience in *Attic Rain*, and remixing the workplace and ways of working among other things has given me a better understanding of how I think and process information and what I need to be authentic and well in all of my endeavours."

Writing whimsically, in a variety of modes, about being a poet/scientist with OCD has generally helped Jones.

"I am thankful I have *Attic Rain*, because coming back to poetry during a lot of challenges in the last few years has held me up and given me energy to keep going," she says.



Samantha Jones

While Jones believes that both poetry and science are rooted in observation, she's noticed that her work crosses over in her arts practice in other ways, too. For example, she uses scientific terminology – such as *polynya* (an open area amidst ice-covered oceans) – as metaphors or models.

In terms of craft, *Attic Rain* contains a variety of forms and expressions of Jones's OCD. There are visual poems, drawings that Jones describes as "worry maps." They're diagrams of her home and workplace, showing all the points of conflict for her.

There is another section called "Incantations," with titles like "Kitchen Song" and "Bathroom Fixture Song," that are representations of Jones's checking routines at a particular point in time.

"Each routine is dependent on the items that I perceive as hazards, the arrangement of these items, and the influence of recent events or general wellness and stress levels," she explains.

These different representations of Jones's OCD allow her to show her way of thinking.

"When you have a mental health condition or neurodivergence, a lot of people like to assume or tell you why you do things the way you do and what your rationale is for certain behaviours or interactions," Jones says.

"*Attic Rain* is my opportunity to say what I am thinking; the reader gets the thought process straight from the source. Sometimes perceptions are vastly different from what's going on behind the scenes, so perhaps *Attic Rain* can prompt people to slow down and check that a bit." 🌿



Collection is a 'love letter for anyone who feels ostracized'

Bret Crowle's debut explores womanhood, religion while highlighting hope

by Kyla Neufeld

JESUS IS A VOYEUR

Bret Crowle

Frontenac House Poetry

\$19.95 pb, 88 paages

ISBN: 978-1-989466-78-0

What started off as a university portfolio project has become Bret Crowle's debut collection of poetry, *Jesus Is a Voyeur*.

"Honestly, it feels simultaneously surreal, unreal, and too real. The idea of publishing a book has been a dream of mine since I was young," she says.

This collection, which Crowle describes as a "love letter for anyone who feels ostracized," explores the losses of womanhood, religion, and mental well-being.

"I grew up in rural Alberta, where there wasn't a lot of support, representation, or solidarity for people who were different," she says. "It was a vulnerable time. I was coming to terms with struggles with mental illness, with being queer, and with understanding my body and its relation to sex, but I never felt safe in any of those explorations. I simply felt shameful and fearful."

Jesus Is a Voyeur begins with the dedication, "To all 'fallen women' condemned by patriarchal fear," and portrays the struggle of womanhood through the themes of religion and patriarchy.

"My intention was to show the similarities that exist between patriarchal and religious foundations, all of which place the blame on 'womanhood.' This idea of 'failing to be a woman' is entirely constructed on societally imposed expectations, which are leveraged and abused as punishment against anyone who doesn't conform," says Crowle.

"The punishment shows itself throughout the collection and takes form within topics such as motherhood (what happens when you are unable to be a mother versus

when you choose not to be a mother?), innocence (you are expected to be innocent and to bear innocence; what happens when that is stripped from you against your will?), and sexuality (at what point do you bend and comply to compulsory heterosexuality to avoid being outcast?)."



In "How to Have a Hostile Uterus," for example, Crowle grapples with the woman's body, as well as both societal and religious pressures around child-bearing: "A child is to be expected. A child can / never be."

Crowle also uses form and structure to draw parallels between the confinement of religion and the chaos of mental illness. Some of the most fluid poems, like "www.mindfreedom.org," explore mental illness and the lack

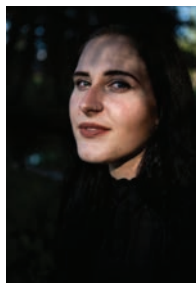
of control. But, on the other hand, she says, "poems such as 'In a Week,' 'Godsent,' and 'Persephone/Eve's Lament,' carry more fugal elements and structured forms that often present themselves in religious scriptures and hymns."

However, this collection is not all about struggle. There is hope and resilience in the way Crowle pairs sex and faith together.

"To me, there is a sense of reclamation in putting sex, especially in the realm of femininity, alongside faith. There is a lot of shame applied to sex within the Bible, so being able to own that is something I both cherish and aim to do in my work."

Crowle's personal journey toward self-acceptance and transformation is apparent throughout this collection.

"I like to think that, somewhere, little Bret is cheering me on. She would be proud, and that's a really cool thought." 🌿



Bret Crowle

MORE POETRY

As Is

Ben Robinson

Moving from his personal life and home neighbourhood – and the effects of city planning and regulations, naming and commemorative practices, demolition and development – to the historical and broader boundary of the regional treaty, these poems critically examine the city of Hamilton, Ontario, showing how the past is affecting the present, and exploring what it means to connect to place as a settler.

(ARP Books, \$20.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-90-8, available as ebook)

THE ASTONISHING ROOM

Brian Bartlett

Bartlett's eighth collection tackles mortality and death with his characteristic wit and structural variety in poems that speak to the natural world and to historical figures, that speak as a father, a son, and a citizen, never afraid to face the hard truths, and yet filled with gratitude and a sense of awe and celebration. (Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 68 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-80-3)

A BODY MORE TOLERABLE

Jaye Simpson

Exploring Indigenous grief, trans identity, and frustrated desires in ferocious and vulnerable ways, this poetry collection is full of mythos, fairy tales, allusion, and magic, conjuring multiverses and pulsating with yearning and possibility. (Arsenal Pulp Press, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-967-7, available as ebook)

DREAMS OF THE EPOCH & THE ROCK

Jaspreet Singh

Exploring language – the power of sound, silence, translation – climate, migration, and deep time, including this current Anthropocene, these poems weave the personal, local, global, and geologic to give a clear-eyed but also a wonderstruck and hopeful vision of the world today and in the future.

(NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-108-2, available as ebook)

FIRST HERE AND THEN FAR:

SELECTED POEMS, 1971–2024

David Zieroth

This selection of direct and evocative poems – in which images of daily life expand the reader's thoughts and emotions – from a more than 50-year career is arranged chronologically, moving from early meditations on the poet's rural Prairie childhood to the final, previously unpublished poem that examines his family history, and how it determined his present and future.

(Harbour Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990776-91-5, available as ebook)

GET YOUR FOOTPRINTS OUT OF MY GARDEN

K. J. Moss

These clear and candid poems share the speaker's journey of healing from the trauma of an assault she suffered as a 12-year-old. Moving from directly addressing both the predator and the child the speaker was – and lost and recovered – to poems of healing and living a full life, this collection inspires with its portrayal of courage and resilience.

(Wood Dragon Books, \$19.99 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-50-9, available as ebook)

THE HUNDRED-YEAR CIRCUS

Sarah Gibbs

With a fusion of forms – including free verse, prose poems, invocations, and elegies – this innovative, raucous, haunting, compelling, and fun debut collection is a poem/play/epic/narrative telling the story of a politically divided America blighted by the climate crisis, and three figures – the Tramp, the Man in the Mask, and the Prophet – who act as champions.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-82-7)

I FEEL THAT WAY TOO

jaz papadopoulos

This extraordinary debut collection lyrically and intellectually examines the #MeToo movement and the impacts of the media and patriarchal power structures, drawing together the Jian Ghomeshi trial, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, psychology experiments, Barbie dolls, meditation practices, and childhood memory to respond

deeply with nuance and care, always looking for the truth beyond the real.

(Nightwood Editions, \$19.95 pb, 102 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-468-7, available as ebook)

I HATE PARTIES

Jes Battis

Filled with plenty of cats and pop culture references, and including forms such as the sestina, the villanelle, and the pantoum, these poems explore growing up queer and autistic and awkward in small-town British Columbia, and adjusting to an adult life of academic politics and pandemic relationships in Saskatchewan. (Nightwood Editions, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-480-9, available as ebook)

INHERENT

Kevin Stebner

This collection of concrete poems – produced by scraping each letter onto the page – uses familiar poetic tools to reduce words and letters and characters to their most basic and beautiful forms, celebrating the shapes we take for granted. (Assembly Press, \$22.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7380098-4-8)

THE LOOM

Andy Weaver

In these lyric poems, Weaver shares his experience of parenthood – the frustration, confusion, fear, sleeplessness, pressure, stickiness, but most of all the unconditional love – with humour and self-awareness. (University of Calgary Press, 128 pages, \$56.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-582-0; \$26.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-583-7; available as ebook)

LOVE IN A DRY LAND

Dennis Cooley

Sinclair Ross's *As for Me and My House* again serves as inspiration for this tender and playful long poem filled with Depression-era imagery, such as withered gardens, dust, chickens, grasshoppers, trains, lanterns, and flies – a poem of voices that are “all wind and yearning.” (Turnstone Press, \$20.00 pb, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-783-3)

**MONDEGREEN RIFFS: I MISHEAR
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS**

Angeline Schellenberg

This collection of poems celebrating colours, imitating musical instruments, and poetically answering wacky online questions is all playfulness and free association run wild while still revealing personal and spiritual depth – in the author's words, the collection turned into "an exploration of joy on the other side of trauma."

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-46-8)

**NEW & SELECTED POEMS OF
DAVID WALTNER-TOEWS**

David Waltner-Toews, edited
by Nathan Dueck

Offering a generous selection of some of Waltner-Toews's best work from across his career, arranged within themes, this volume also includes a brand-new afterword by the poet and a detailed critical introduction by the editor.
(CMU Press, \$20.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-987986-17-4)

NEW & SELECTED POEMS OF JOHN WEIER

John Weier, edited by Nathan Dueck

Offering a generous selection of some of Weier's best work from across his career, arranged within themes, this volume also includes a brand-new afterword by the poet and a detailed critical introduction by the editor.
(CMU Press, \$20.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-987986-16-7)

**THE SALMON SHANTIES: A CASCADIAN
SONG CYCLE**

Harold Rhenisch

This collection of shanties (songs) laid out in couplets that move between English and Chinook Wawa balances the settler and Indigenous experiences of land and water in the Pacific Northwest and explores memories of people, place, and of returning home.
(University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-015-4, available as ebook)

SHE FALLS AGAIN

Rosanna Deerchild

Deerchild's third collection is a forthright, cheeky, and celebratory look at Indigenous herstory, urban community, and renewed ceremony, as the speaker hears the message she needs to hear from The

Woman Who Falls from the Sky, through her Trickster messenger, the crow.
(Coach House Books, \$23.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55245-487-9, available as ebook)

10:10

Michael Trussler

In ekphrastic poems and prose reminiscences centring on life-changing works of art, and in fluid descriptions of colour, birds, and landscapes, Trussler has crafted an astonishing historical poetry of witness, seeing beyond the surface of the horrors of the Holocaust and the beauty of a sun setting through smoke.
(Goose Lane Editions, \$22.00 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-338-9)

TRADING BEAUTY SECRETS WITH THE DEAD
Erina Harris

Arranged as an abecedarium, these always fascinating and often outrageous poems in a variety of forms from dialogues to "villainelles" engage with children's literature, fairy and folk tales, art history – including the art of the doll – biography, and literary figures to examine, question, and upend ideas of gender, queerness, misogyny, and the role of art.
(Buckrider Books-Wolsak and Wynn, \$22.00 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998408-03-0)

THE WEATHER SAYS: POEMS
Catherine Owen

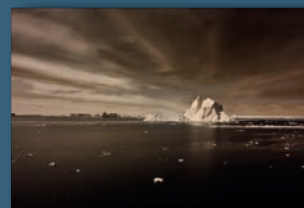
Riffing off of a range of lines written by (mostly) poets, these poems explore weather in all its variations and roles – as a topic of small talk and a source of catastrophe, both benevolent and terrifying – and examines our intimate and fraught relationship with it.
(Carbonation Press, \$25.00 pb, 138 pages, ISBN: 978-1-304-25101-5)

WHAT KIND OF DAUGHTER?

Rayanne Haines

This hybrid collection of poetry and essay explores the liminal space one inhabits when grieving, whether grieving a loss of self or a loss of another. Haines reflects on her life growing up in rural Alberta, and considers the loss of her mother to cancer, asking questions about navigating through holding patterns of almost grief, and making it through the burden of care.
(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-84-1)

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Playwrights float through time, illuminate Métis story from Laurence's work

The Diviners is a reconciliation play, shaped by Indigenous worldview

by Luis Reis

THE DIVINERS

Adapted from the novel by Margaret Laurence

Text by Vern Thiessen with Yvette Nolan

Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing

\$18.95 pb, 120 pages

ISBN: 978-1-990738-59-3

In *The Diviners*, adapted from Margaret Laurence's classic Canadian novel, playwrights Vern Thiessen and Yvette Nolan focus on the adult Morag Gunn – a novelist with writer's block who is estranged from her daughter, Pique, and who struggles with alcoholism.

Travelling through time, the play follows Morag's journey and her personal struggles for independence, freedom, and self-expression. As the play's stage directions suggest, "We float through the settings of this play like a canoe on a river: effortless; simple; surprising, and sometimes startling."

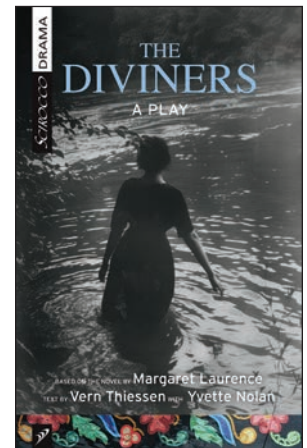
Collaboration was key to creating the play Thiessen and Nolan wanted to make. Thiessen was with the project from the beginning, and his previous success adapting Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage*, where time and action flow around a central character, stood him in good stead. Nolan came on later to bring both an Indigenous lens and a woman's sensibility to the project.

In a collective response to interview questions, Thiessen and Nolan say, "The moving through time in the novel, backwards and forwards, speak to an Indigenous concept of time. All of which allowed us to craft a text that was open to theatrical invention."

The playwrights especially wanted to illuminate the Métis story that Laurence wove throughout *The Diviners* (and other works). "Morag's life is 'interguttured' (to use a Judith Thompson term) with the Tonnerres' – Jules and Lazarus and Piquette and the rest," they explain. "Laurence wrote those characters into being, and we wanted to dive deeper into what it means to live next to people without understanding them or their history, or your own role in our shared histories."

"It used to be said that history is written by the victors, but the artists who come after are rewriting history, unearthing the stories that were disappeared or pushed aside. Laurence did that for the Tonnerres, and we took that gift, some 50 years later, and reclaimed a little space for this particular piece of history."

In fact, *The Diviners* is, for Nolan and Thiessen, a reconciliation play. They say, "Morag Gunn, the writer,



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mines her past to find her story, and her story is about where she came from, who she loves, and what that means for her future, and the future of her child. The Tonnerres become her relations, and in an Indigenous world view, that means she is responsible to them and they are responsible to her.

“And that is the story of this land; once we learn our histories, once we see how we are connected to each other, we will be able to figure out how we live together here.”

Reconciliation through writing – what Morag attempts *in* the play, and what Nolan and Thiessen hope to do *with* the play.

“Writers mine memory to create stories, but few writers think that what they commit to the page is truly what happened,” they say.

“That is the craft – to write it better. Writers are always changing the past, ‘recalling it, revising it’ as Laurence says. We write it better. Which is what Morag is doing, which is what we are doing with *The Diviners*. Writing it better. Writing it into view.” 🌿



Vern Thiessen



Yvette Nolan

“And that is the story of this land; once we learn our histories, once we see how we are connected to each other, we will be able to figure out how we live together here.”

VERN THIESSEN AND YVETTE NOLAN

MORE DRAMA

ALTAR AND URN: TWO PLAYS BY SANTIAGO GUZMÁN

Santiago Guzmán

Set in Newfoundland and Labrador (although adaptable to other small towns), these two plays deal with similar themes of cultural and sexual identity and family relationships. In *ALTAR*, Eugenio draws upon Mexican tradition to summon his boyfriend who has ghosted him, and in *Urn*, two siblings, Mariana and Esteban, who have taken different approaches to living as Mexican immigrants in Canada, reconnect after their mother’s death. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-64-7)

GAY FOR PAY: THE BLAKE & CLAY PLAYS

Curtis Campbell and Daniel Krolik

Gay for Pay with Blake & Clay portrays two out-of-work gay actors teaching straight men how to play gay roles, hilariously exploring how representation matters. Full of witty and whacky banter, *Blake & Clay’s Gay Agenda* is a book launch and overview of “a new batch of words to live, laugh, and love by” or “a cheat sheet for the eternal

pop quiz that is gay life”: a guide to uniting the gay community.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-60-9)

GET THAT HOPE

Andrea Scott

A Jamaican Canadian family in Toronto on Jamaican Independence Day deals with a heat wave and deep-seated resentments due to such past and present issues as lost opportunities and a need for personal independence in this emotionally engaging play that is loosely inspired by Eugene O’Neill’s *Long Day’s Journey into Night*. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-61-6)

我的名是张欣恩 (GIMME CHANCE LEH)

Kris Vanessa Teo Xin-En

Narrated/performed by Zhang (or Kris), who was born in Canada, raised in Singapore, and who returned to Canada as a teen, this play shows how she is unable to fit in no matter where she is or what language she speaks, until she is able to rediscover her true identity, with the help of her imaginary Chicken Rice Uncle. (Playwrights Canada Press, \$19.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3691-0501-1)

THE MINISTRY OF GRACE

Tara Beagan

Mary, a Ntlaka’pamux woman from B.C., is pulled into Brother Cain’s evangelist revival show as a Bible-reading “heathen” to boost Cain’s failing income in 1950 Southern California. Mary, renamed Grace, brings healing, love, and dignity to her fellow travellers Clem and Lizzie-Mae, who give all they have in return, in this powerful story of friendship and redemption. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-63-0)

1939

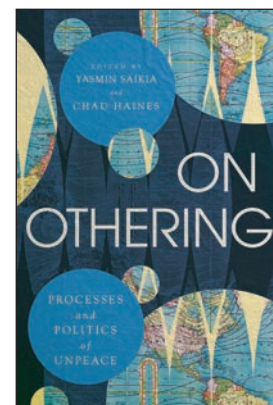
Jani Lauzon and Kaitlyn Riordan

A group of students in a fictional Indian residential school in Ontario are chosen to perform a Shakespeare play for the King and Queen’s tour of Canada in 1939. The rehearsals and performance give the students the opportunity to regain some of their stolen cultural practices and identity as they show that they understand Shakespeare better than their teacher ever will. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 90 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-62-3)

Collection explores building peace through transforming perspectives

Concept of othering relatively modern in multicultural world, editors say

by Bibi Ukonu



ON OTHERING:

Processes and Politics of Unpeace

Edited by Yasmin Saikia and Chad Haines

Athabasca University Press

\$39.99 pb, 336 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77199-386-9

Available as an ebook

Arizona State University scholars Yasmin Saikia, a professor of history and the Hardt-Nickachos Endowed Chair in Peace Studies, and Chad Haines, a professor of religious studies and Senior Global Futures Scholar, are the editors of the timely collection *On Othering: Processes and Politics of Unpeace*.

“Our concern is to critically engage with the issue of differences and provide a pathway to seeing difference not as a threat, but as the foundations for peace,” the editors say in a collective response.

Saikia and Haines solicited contributions from scholars at different stages in their careers and in different disciplines, such as history, ethnic studies, law, English, political science, and geology. The editors say that this “diversity is significant in making the volume so rich,” and that this interdisciplinary approach “transcends the silos of knowledge. We believe that the approach itself is an act of peace-building.”

Coming from an international perspective, looking at othered communities such as Uyghurs in China, Muslims in Italy and America, Queers, Mexicans, Black Americans, and more, as well as the human and non-human relationship, this collection of 12 essays considers how othering works against peace.

The editors note that othering – where those who are different are dehumanized in order to justify superiority and violence – is a relatively modern phenomenon.

“Most of us do accept cultural differences, our food is inherently multicultural, our languages evolved from interactions and borrowings from different languages over time, even our ethnic and national communities, if you take an honest look at our history, is an intermingling of different communities, different blood streams,” they say.

“The question is, are we willing to see that and accept that reality?”

In addition to highlighting how othering in today’s world results in cultural conflicts – based on race, gender, sexuality, nationalism, religion – and the exploitation of the natural world, this book explores how to move beyond divisions and to celebrate differences in order to build peace. This requires going deeper than political and societal structures – such as globalism and colonialism – to understanding peace on an individual, human level.

“Our book explores the concept of peace as a state of mind, emphasizing that achieving peace requires a profound mental and psychological transformation,” they explain. “We are conditioned to perceive the other as a problem, a threat, or someone inherently inferior. This pervasive mindset is embedded in our cultures, perpetuating values of discriminatory differentiation. A shift from this way of thinking is necessary if we have to move beyond the current divisiveness.

“We have to deepen our awareness of the inhumane nature of negative othering. By recognizing and challenging these ingrained prejudices, we can transform ourselves, our perspectives, and our world views. This transformation is essential for reclaiming our shared humanity.”

This mental shift can dismantle the boundaries set up between self and other. “By embracing this inclusive mindset,” the editors say, “we pave the way for a more harmonious and empathetic world.

“For the world to change, we have to be the change; it begins with our personal endeavour to be the changemaker, and it starts as a personal journey that grows as we become aware that we exist in relationship to others.” 🌿



Yasmin Saikia



Chad Haines

Commitment to ethical world view common thread in short fiction pieces

Poet/academic inspired by memory, fractures in Jewish community, cannabis culture

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

RUBBLE CHILDREN:

Seven and a Half Stories

Aaron Kreuter

University of Alberta Press

\$27.00 pb, 232 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77212-772-0

Available as an ebook

I could barely write down the stories fast enough; it quickly became clear to me that I had a short fiction collection on my hands,” says Toronto author Aaron Kreuter about his intense, thought-provoking new volume of stories, *Rubble Children: Seven and a Half Stories*.

A fiction writer, poet, and academic, Kreuter teaches English at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont. His poetry collection *Shifting Baseline Syndrome* was shortlisted for the 2022 Governor General’s Award. This is his fifth book.

“The inspirations for this book were a mixture of childhood memories, my interest in diaspora, settler colonialism, Zionism, my frustration with the fractures in the Jewish community, and an almost sociological obsession with cannabis culture as it manifests in Jewish teenagers,” Kreuter says.

The stories take place in Thornhill, north of Toronto, where Kreuter grew up. Some pieces centre on a fictional synagogue ironically named *Kol B’Seder* (Hebrew for “everything is OK”).

“Temples” involves a teenage youth group at a synagogue sleepover that spirals out of control. “The Streets of Thornhill” deals with what happens when the new program chair at the synagogue invites a Palestinian to speak at its lecture series.

Two of the stories vary from the others in structure. “Tel Aviv-Toronto Red Eye: A Dialogue” is presented

as conflict-riddled emails between a Jewish writer and magazine editor regarding a submission.

In “A Handful of Days, a Handful of Worlds,” Kreuter spins a multi-version tale about a lesbian couple’s breakup. In both pieces, he addresses the issue of what a Jewish writer should and shouldn’t write.

Kreuter’s favourite character is Stephanie Krasner, the writer who appears as both teenager and adult, as protagonist and in a secondary role. “The ways Stephanie talks about writing, the ways she takes the world around her and turns it into fiction, parallels in some ways my own thoughts and beliefs about fiction writing,” he says.

As a genre, short fiction appeals to Kreuter. “Creating a short story from what was once a blank page is a challenge, a puzzle, and a delight,” he says. Among his challenges are making sure each story has its own tone, structure, and vision; creating believable situations to explore difficult political and personal issues; and making each sentence the best it can be.

The collection’s target audience is Canadians, Jewish people, Palestinian people, and readers of all stripes and ages. As for Kreuter’s message, he says, “The importance of looking at the world in all its complexity yet remaining committed to an ethical world view is definitely something that each of the stories touch on.”

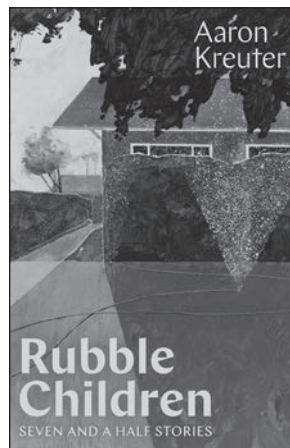
In Kreuter’s view, the issue of peace is a major factor in this collection. “All of the characters desire peace, but what peace means for each of them is vastly different.”

In terms of the Israel/Palestine conflict, he hopes that the collection, in its small way, helps imagine better futures – a thought echoed in the book’s final acknowledgement: “This book is for all the children who live and who die in the rubble; may we be held accountable, may we build a world without borders, without bombs, without rubble.” 🌿



Aaron Kreuter

RICK O'BRIEN



Speculative fiction anthology a ‘stage on which Palestinian writers could shine’

Works open new realms of possibility while weighing social, political issues

by Sarah Seroy

THYME TRAVELLERS:

An Anthology of Palestinian Speculative Fiction

Edited by Sonia Sulaiman

Roseway-Fernwood Publishing

\$24.00 pb, 160 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77363-694-8

Available as an ebook

Thyme Travellers: An Anthology of Palestinian Speculative Fiction is a powerful collection of works curated by writer and editor Sonia Sulaiman. The anthology features 14 short stories from the Palestinian diaspora featuring authors from all over the world, including Canada, Australia, and Lebanon.

The title *Thyme Travellers* is itself an homage to Palestinian culture. “It came to me because za’atar, or wild thyme that grows in Palestine, is very important culturally. It has culinary and folkloric uses. There’s an old Palestinian short story collection called *A Land of Stone and Thyme*. And there’s the pun on time travel,” Sulaiman says.

Speculative fiction seemed an especially appropriate genre. Such works transport readers to altered, imagined, and future realities. “Consensus reality is tweaked, or deconstructed, in the speculative,” Sulaiman says. This enables readers to consider new realms of possibility while also reflecting on social and political issues in the real world.

There is also some debate as to whether all Palestinian fiction can be considered speculative because it often challenges the dominant consensus and reveals realities that have been erased and suppressed. “Anti-colonial

histories: are they speculative by nature?” Sulaiman asks. “They often lie outside of what the majority believes to be true.”

The stories in *Thyme Travellers* are incredibly diverse, spanning various places and times. In “Soul Searching,” by Rana Othman, a high school student in a coma, has a chance to see life through the eyes of those around her.



Sonia Sulaiman

In “Down Under,” by Jumaana Abdu, two Australian women attempt to tunnel to Palestine. In “The Generation Chip,” by Nadia Afifi, a woman visits a futuristic Mind Clinic in order to access her grandmother’s memories and learn more about her history.

Each story takes place in a unique world, yet they all incorporate common themes including isolation, displacement, and violence, themes that all readers can connect with.

While each of the stories is amazing in its own way, there is one that stands out for Sulaiman.

“Without a doubt, it’s ‘The Third or Fourth Casualty’ by Ziyad Saadi.” The short, poignant story follows a group of men from Gaza swimming in the sea, seemingly unaffected by their peers drowning around them. “This story about Gaza was so clear, so jagged. It’s a tragedy that goes right to the heart of indifference,” she says.

Spotlighting excellent Palestinian writers was one of Sulaiman’s overall goals. “I wanted this book to be a stage on which Palestinian writers could shine. I hope that readers will find new favourite authors, and become curious about what Palestinian writers are doing. It was important to me that this book not be about Palestine per se, but it is important to me that readers will honour our humanity,” she explains.

Sharing stories from the Palestinian diaspora is also important to Sulaiman, who hopes they will inspire readers to consider real issues and current events. “I do hope that the book encourages curiosity about Palestinian writers, and about Palestine. It wasn’t created to move, to humanize, or anything like that. But it’s always important to me that people remain curious and open-hearted.” 🌿



Historical novel grew from a father's secret double life in WWII

Genni Gunn explores the human cost of war through secret agents

by Margaret Goldik

THE CIPHER

Genni Gunn

Signature Editions

\$22.95 pb, 260 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77324-142-5

When Vancouver-based author Genni Gunn's mother moved house, she found a cache of her late husband's wartime documents, which disclosed that he had been in the Special Operations Executive in Italy during the Second World War, aiding the Allies.

He had never spoken of these experiences to his family. SOE taught its agents to forget; they were constrained by the Official Secrets Act, but also by the danger that a false word could lead to the death of another agent or a partisan.

The echo of this imperative might have played a part in Gunn's father's reticence. "He was always an introvert at home," she says. "Naturally, given he was sworn to secrecy, he never spoke of his war experiences."

Gunn and her brother were fascinated by this secret life, and dove into archives and recently opened SOE agents' stories. One result of that research is Gunn's latest historical novel, *The Cipher*.

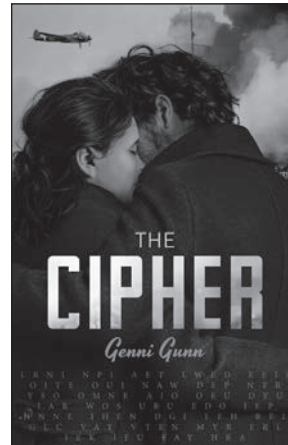
Gunn describes how she and her brother Leo began the search to find out more about their father. "Leo was travelling to the U.K. pretty regularly, so it made sense that he should probe the National Archives. Meanwhile I was going to Italy almost every year, and so I leapt into the Italian archives in various cities, concentrating in the end on Trieste, the city of my birth.

"As we spent time in the archives, we shared everything, so now we both have a voluminous archive of SOE and the Trieste Question."

Gunn had already written an Italian novel set in the Second World War, so she says it felt natural to take on a

new one. "Fiction would allow me to create a composite of my father, based on all I had read."

The Cipher's action takes place between 1939 and 1948, in England, Italy, Abyssinia, Kenya, Algiers, and Trieste. Fascism is rising in Europe. Olivia Baldini is a young Anglo-Italian woman with hyperthymesia (highly superior autobiographical memory), which makes her valuable to the SOE. Nino is an Italian merchant marine recruited into SOE while in a British POW camp in Kenya.



As the Allies, German Nazis, Italian Fascists, and Yugoslavian Communists fight over Italy after Mussolini's surrender, these two meet during missions, aiding the partisans and resistance fighters. Olivia and Nino are instantly attracted to each other, but their SOE missions (ciphering and deciphering) are infinitely more important.

"Both of the protagonists are ciphers, and decoding ciphers, but the sound of the two words – the cipher – sounds like 'decipher,' which is essentially what I was doing in deciphering my father," Gunn says.

That there is conflict in *The Cipher* is clear. After the German surrender, there is still the Trieste Question: Trieste is divided between Yugoslavia and Italy where an Allied Military Government civil police force keeps order. But is there peace?

"I would say yes, in that the war ended, but human beings remain scarred by war experiences, in ways that are not necessarily visible. So in the novel, I think both Olivia and Nino are scarred in this way.

"Their lives are forever changed, and their peace is a negotiated new space." 🌿



Genni Gunn

Passion for sci-fi and fantasy grew to a publishing house that helps keep books in print

Edward Willett (and his cat) reprint books 'orphaned by a publisher's collapse'

by Keith Cadieux

While considering self-publishing some new titles, well-established and award-winning fantasy and sci-fi author Edward Willett ultimately decided to try something even bigger: starting a publishing company.

Founded in 2018 and based in Regina, Shadowpaw Press is named after Willett's black Siberian cat, who has a publishing connection of his own.

"He came from a breeder in West Virginia through Betsy Wollheim, one of the publishers of DAW Books," Willett explains. "She went



Edward Willett

down and sent us pictures; we picked the little black cat. And now his picture is on every Shadowpaw Press book!"

Now with over 50 books under their belt – a mix of original publications and reprints – Shadowpaw has already managed to make a considerable name for itself in Canadian publishing, especially in the genres of fantasy and science fiction.

"Because I'm a science fiction and fantasy author, Shadowpaw Press will always have a lot of those titles," Willett says, "but there are many more to choose from."

With such a breadth of titles already published, it can be daunting for new readers to find a place to

start. But if you know what you like, Shadowpaw likely has something right up your alley.

"I have literary historical fiction

– *Thickwood* by Gayle M. Smith, for example, set in post-war Saskatchewan and offering a fascinating story that combines the love of horses and women's professional baseball. And also on the literary side, coming up, I have two new collections of literary short stories by acclaimed Saskatchewan authors David Carpenter (*Hello*) and Dwayne Brenna (*Theories of Everything*).

"For poetry lovers, my newest title is *The Door at the End of Everything* by Lynda Monahan. For kids, there are Arthur Slade's Canadian Chills trio of spooky stories for middle-grade readers, Katherine Lawrence's middle-grade novel-in-verse, *Stay*, and a picture book by Alison Lohans, *The Wind and Amanda's Cello*, illustrated by Nova Scotia artist Sarah Shortliffe.

"There are also titles for YA readers, including my own Aurora- and Saskatchewan Book Award-nominated *Star Song* and Matthew Hughes's award-nominated *The Emir's Falcon*, with Arthur Slade's

new Dragon Assassin novel, *I, Brax*, and James Bows's *The Sun Runners* coming up this fall.

"In other words, whatever you like to read, there's likely something in our list that will appeal to you."

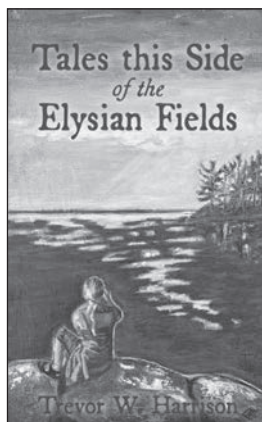
When it comes to finding what to publish, Willett relies on the advice of other publishing professionals. "Submissions are vetted by my editorial advisory board. You can find their names and bios on my website – they're an impressive bunch," says Willett.

It is indeed an impressive list of authors, including Dave Margoshes, dee Hobsbawn-Smith, Arthur Slade, and others.

"I route submissions to whichever of the members (who include poets, YA authors, a science fiction editor, and literary fiction and non-fiction authors) seems appropriate.

Ultimately, I make the final decision, but I take their advice very seriously," Willett says.

As well as the more straightforward traditional publishing model, Shadowpaw has also made room for a number of reprints and even offers some services to those interested in self-publishing through their sister company Endless Sky Books.



On the reprint side, Willett explains, “The original idea was to offer authors whose works had been orphaned by the collapse of publishers (which has happened to me more than once) a way to keep those books in print.

“And, indeed, I’ve brought out several titles that would otherwise have fallen by the wayside. My own young adult fantasy series, *The Shards of Excalibur*, was orphaned by a publisher’s collapse and has since come out under the Shadowpaw Press Reprise imprint.”

With so much work going through the press, it is even more impressive when one realizes that Shadowpaw is essentially a one-person operation. “Shadowpaw Press consists of me and the cat, and he’s no help at all,” Willett says.

The skills he’s accumulated throughout the years as an editor and especially as a writer are certainly major factors in how Willett and Shadowpaw do business.

“I’m very aware of what it’s like to be on the other end of the author/publisher relationship and strive to keep my authors well-informed every step of the way. I’m also aware of some of the concerns authors have often had with publishing contracts and try to offer contracts that alleviate those concerns,” Willett says.

“And while I’m still trying to find the balance between writing my own books and publishing other people’s books, the end goal has always been the same: to create great new books that engage and entertain readers of all ages.” 🐾

SUMMER/FALL TITLES FROM SHADOWPAW PRESS

ASHME’S SONG

Brad C. Anderson

This science fiction adventure follows Ashme, a “Meso” or New Mesopotamian, who is also an indigo child with DNA modified by sentient AI, which enables her to control computer systems. She dreams of using her power to fight the Ostarrichi ruling her country, but her twin brother has a neurological disorder and needs her to care for him.

(Shadowpaw Press, \$29.99 pb, 420 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-16-4)

CORRIDOR TO NIGHTMARE

Dave Duncan

Never before published, this final fantasy novel of the beloved author who died in 2018 follows Agatha, who is looking forward to retiring after 40 years of teaching. However, a stranger arrives and drags her through a portal to another world, one steeped in magic and violence. (Shadowpaw Press, \$26.99 pb, 366 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-93-7)

THE DOOR AT THE END OF EVERYTHING

Lynda Monahan

Written while Monahan was the writer-in-residence at the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, this collection of poetry gives voice to and honours those living with mental illness, speaking to the courage and hope that they embody. (Shadowpaw Press, \$19.99 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-13-3)

THE GLASS LODGE, 2ND EDITION

John Brady McDonald

This 20th anniversary edition of McDonald’s debut collection of poems has been re-edited and restored and is illustrated with images of many of the original, handwritten poems. Author’s notes provide frank, fascinating insight into what gave rise to each of the poems. (Shadowpaw Press Reprise, \$34.99 hc, 74 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-11-9)

I, BRAX: A BATTLE DIVINE, A DRAGON ASSASSIN ADVENTURE

Arthur Slade

In this latest of the YA fantasy series, Brax the dragon hero gets to tell his own story. On a diplomatic mission, Brax and his rider, Carmen, encounter The Nameless Goddess, who is planning to conquer their world. Her first step is to have the emperor of the Akkad empire murdered, and Brax and Carmen need to protect his young nephew and heir to the throne from a similar fate. Will they be able to fight the goddess face to face and win? (Shadowpaw Press, \$24.99 pb, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-26-3)

THE SUN RUNNERS

James Bow

This YA space opera moves from the end of the world when Lieutenant Adelheid Koning became queen of stranded colonists on Mercury at age 23, to 50 years later when her 17-year-old granddaughter Frieda becomes queen, and wants to connect with Earth again, against the advice of Adelheid, who is now regent and dowager. (Shadowpaw Press, \$26.99 pb, 476 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-18-8)

TALES FROM THE SILENCE

Edited by James Bow

Set in the universe of Bow’s new novel, *The Sun Runners*, where the world ended on August 4, 2151, leaving survivors on Earth, on Jovian moons, on the surface of Mars and above the clouds of Venus, and on Mercury, the stories in this anthology – by award-winning science fiction, fantasy, and YA authors – explore the worlds left behind. (Shadowpaw Press, \$26.99 pb, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-22-5)

TALES THIS SIDE OF THE ELYSIAN FIELDS

Trevor W. Harrison

This collection of sometimes light-hearted, sometimes poignant essays, illustrated with sketches and photos, includes stories of the life – from his late teens to his early 30s – of the author, a retired professor of sociology at the University of Lethbridge, known for his contributions to the public media. (Endless Sky Books-Shadowpaw Press, \$24.99 pb, 196 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-24-9)

THE WIND AND AMANDA’S CELLO

Alison Lohans, illustrated

by Sarah Shortliffe

One day when Amanda is practising her cello, a restless wind swoops inside it and directs Amanda’s music making, with all sorts of unusual results. But what happens when Amanda begins to outgrow her little cello? (Shadowpaw Press, \$23.99 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998273-15-7)

The superhero moment is seen through a critical lens in new anthology

Jessica Jones, as a multi-layered show, showed human struggles of a hero

by David Jón Fuller

DIVERGING THE POPULAR, GENDER AND TRAUMA AKA THE JESSICA JONES ANTHOLOGY

Edited by Mary Grace Lao, Pree Rehal, and Jessica Bay

University of Calgary Press

272 pages

\$62.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-573-8

\$42.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-574-5



Mary Grace Lao



Pree Rehal



Jessica Bay

Superheroes are having an extended “moment” with big-budget screen adaptations since the explosive growth of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) starting in 2008. Not all are critical or commercial successes. But as the editors of a new academic anthology show, at least one superhero’s exploits provide plenty of food for thought.

Jessica Jones first appeared in 2001 in Marvel’s *Alias* comic book series by Brian Michael Bendis and Michael Gaydos. She was an outlier among longer-established characters like Daredevil, Luke Cage, and Iron Fist in Netflix’s superhero adaptations. Season 1 of *Jessica Jones* premiered in 2015.

Jones’s nemesis Kilgrave can control minds and uses this ability to destroy people’s lives. Jones strives to expose Kilgrave’s powers and prove his victims are not responsible for their often heinous acts. Kilgrave, meanwhile, wants Jessica to love him. And he’ll do anything within his power to make that happen.

Mary Grace Lao, lead editor of *Diverging the Popular, Gender and Trauma AKA The Jessica Jones Anthology*, and co-editors Pree Rehal and Jessica Bay have curated and contributed to a collection of critical essays on the themes and nuances of a multi-layered show. Questions of consent, power, misogyny, gender, race, sexual assault, and PTSD are among many considered by the writers.

“The content and themes from *Jessica Jones* were markedly different from what we had seen from the MCU at the time,” says Lao. “The Avengers were travelling through space, otherworldly realms, while fighting alien

invasions. *Jessica Jones*, on the other hand, had very human struggles, even with her superpowers.”

In addition to her main problem of catching Kilgrave, “Jones suffers from PTSD and alcoholism, which are often depicted from the male perspective,” adds Lao.

All three editors are associated with the Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture at York and Toronto Metropolitan universities. Rehal, an independent researcher, holds a master’s degree from the program. Lao and Bay are both PhD candidates there.

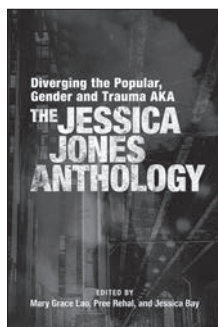
The anthology began with a conference panel in 2016, and the COVID-19 pandemic extended the editorial process. But, says Lao, it was worth it. “What surprised me was how all the chapters were different, but somehow spoke to each other. The contributors were the ones who drove the structure of the entire collection.”

Bay says the time frame had its upside. “This was a very long journey from start to finish, so I enjoyed the opportunity to continuously return to the *Jessica Jones* series and consider how it related to each new time period.”

Both the character and series stood out at the time given the paucity of headlining female characters in the MCU. As the book developed, Bay says, “I became more aware of my own biases as a privileged cis white woman who was asking this show (and the platform) to stand in for every woman and all femme-related issues.

“Now, as the MCU has attempted a larger ‘feminist arc’ (for lack of a better term), I’ve come back to *Jessica Jones* and realized that it was what we needed at the time – especially given the willingness of the show’s creators to try to learn from their mistakes.

“We just needed more like it.” 🌿



Essays ranging from satirical to personal explore messiness of the world

James Yékú was drawn to essay form for nuanced explorations of theoretical concepts

by Alicia Chantal

AMBIVALENT ENCOUNTERS AND OTHER ESSAYS

James Yékú

Griots Lounge

\$22.99 pb, 176 pages

ISBN: 978-1-7386993-5-3

Can an attitude of ambivalence help us navigate the complexities of human experience?

This is the central question addressed by James Yékú's *Ambivalent Encounters and Other Essays*, a collection that explores the complicated and often fraught relationships that make up the tapestry of what it means to exist in a quickly-evolving world.

The essay form appealed to Yékú because of the freedom it lends to discussions of various subjects. "It's great for a more nuanced exploration of subjective narratives. The core of the essays are commentaries that allow me to test some theoretical ideas."

Among the ideas explored, Yékú questions the role of established voices in the digital age. "Social media is rooted functionally in ambivalence," he says. "Platform culture can both amplify radical voices and depoliticize them. Social media can either yield to a sea of noise and thoughtlessness of a culture in search of itself, or to a storm of change that sweeps transformative action into possibilities.

"My understanding of social media in the book emphasizes the necessity of modulating extremes and cultivating a critical ambivalence around technologies."

The essays range in style from satirical to quite personal. In his essay "Knowing Books: My Grandfather

and a Mediterranean Journey," death and loss are examined through a deeply personal recounting of the disappearance of his uncle during passage through Libya two decades ago.

Yékú notes the duality of trying to achieve closure while holding onto hope: "I so much wanted to mourn his inscrutable loss, to activate some generational closure as it were. But it became rather obvious the process of writing [the essay] also nurtured some hope he might still be alive somewhere, perhaps reading an essay about his disappearance and wrestling with questions of self-disclosure."

Yékú was surprised to rediscover the power of storytelling, saying, "I came to value again the power of narrative to elicit catharsis."

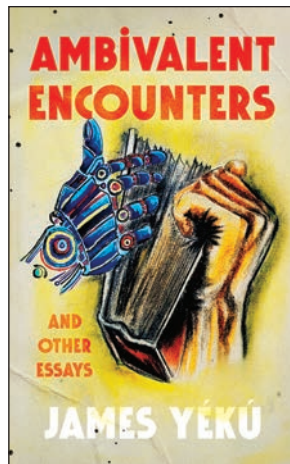
James Yékú

He hopes his audience will also appreciate that power and narrative's ability to generate a sense of acceptance of the messiness of the world. "I would be gratified if *Ambivalent Encounters* inspires readers to embrace the incompleteness and uncertainties of our human reality." Furthermore, he believes, "The capacity to defend and critique certain ideas and practices at the same time could inspire more just and human relationships."

Yékú, whose work and research in the digital expressions of culture and literature in Africa and the African diaspora has led him to teaching at universities in Nigeria, Saskatchewan, and currently at the University of Kansas, credits the role of the Prairies in the development of the ideas expressed in *Ambivalent Encounters*.

"Memories of Saskatchewan where I lived for a long time remain with me in my travels abroad and current work in the U.S.," he says. "Despite being away, I still call Saskatoon home and remain grateful for that privilege, although there is hardly any romanticization of this relationship in the essays.

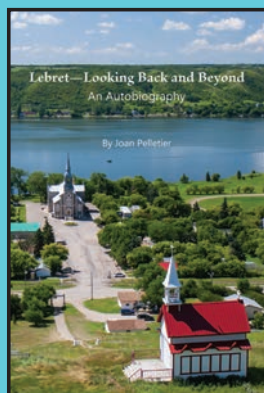
"I am always grateful that my frames of reference go back to the solid friendships and excellent academic exchanges I continue to have in Canada." 🌿



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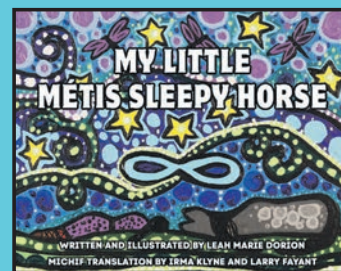
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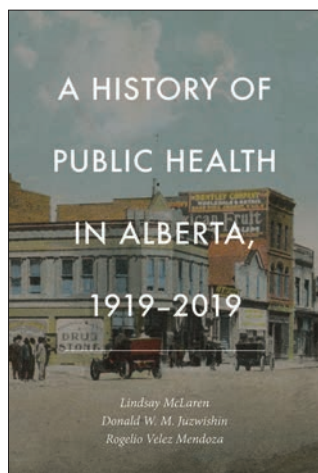


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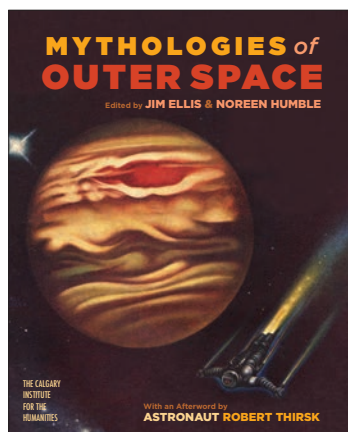
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Press

NEW FROM UCALGARY PRESS



Highly recommended reading for anyone interested in the pivotal role of public health in supporting the well-being of Albertans.

—JASON CABAJ, Medical Officer of Health



Every culture and society has read stories in the night sky. This book brings together academics and artists to imagine outer space. Is open space terra nullius? What if there's life beyond earth? Do celestial bodies have rights? How will humans change the constellations if we live among them?



An essential reader in the dynamic field of Indigenous consultation and engagement in the extractive resource sector.

—ROBERTA RICE, Political Science,
University of Calgary



press.ucalgary.ca

History, function of Winnipeg Police Service held up for examination, critique

Wilt hopes book will pique curiosity, spur conversations on police funding

by Margaret Anne Fehr

DOGGED AND DESTRUCTIVE

Essays on the Winnipeg Police

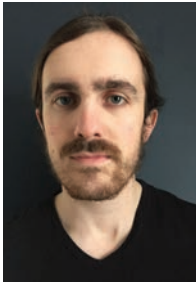
James Wilt

ARP Books

\$20.00 pb, 136 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927886-88-5

James Wilt has spent the last several years researching and writing about the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), and his book *Dogged and Destructive: Essays on the Winnipeg Police* gathers both new and previously published essays written from late 2023 to early 2024.



James Wilt

“It works to bring together many of the facts and themes that I’ve been exploring since I started looking more closely at the WPS as an institution,” he says.

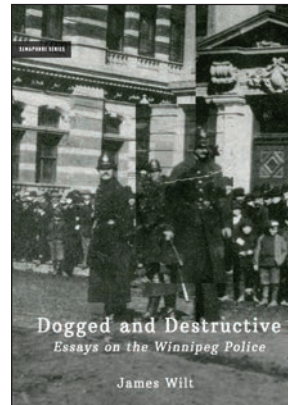
Wilt shares that since 2020 and the summer of protests led by Black and Indigenous people against police violence, there has been a significant uptick of interest in local police forces.

“In that sense, this book builds on this ongoing struggle, and hopefully offers useful resources to continue it into the future,” he says. “More specifically, 2024 is the 150th anniversary of the City of Winnipeg and the creation of the Winnipeg police, offering a timely opportunity to reflect on its history.”

The title *Dogged and Destructive* derives from a paraphrase of a quote by Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who responded to repeated raids of his Winnipeg abortion clinic throughout the 1980s by describing the WPS as the most “dogged, disruptive, and destructive” of police forces in the country.

“While the objective of the book isn’t necessarily to rank the WPS against other forces in terms of their harms, the phrase seemed to effectively summarize its history and ongoing impacts,” Wilt says.

In the book, Wilt argues that police don’t actually keep people safe. “This is a point that has been made for decades by Black and Indigenous feminist abolitionists, who have been deeply concerned and organizing around the very issues that police use to justify their ever-increasing funding, such as domestic and interpersonal violence,” he says.



“As their work, and this book, demonstrates, policing and criminalization constantly fail to keep the most vulnerable and marginalized people protected from harm, and frequently worsen the risk factors that can contribute to harm.”

The broader “punishment bureaucracy” also causes more harm than good.

“Incarceration is an extremely destructive system that undermines all parts of a person’s life,” says Wilt, “eventually spitting them out with even less access to housing, employment, and resources.”

Wilt has examined WPS functions including its day-to-day activities, history, union, and attempted reforms, and concludes that the solution is not greater investments in policing, but rather a concerted defunding of the system altogether and greater funding of life-affirming care services – like public housing, income supports, and crisis response – that are entirely separate from police.

Wilt is hoping to attract readers ranging from those who may already be on board with the cause of defunding police to those who are curious but perhaps still skeptical about the idea.

“Ideally, the book will serve as a resource that people can draw on as they have conversations and debates about this subject in their homes, workplaces, and community organizations,” he says.

“A big part of this book is to demonstrate that developing real safety for people requires a concerted break from policing and incarceration, towards an entirely different model of collective care.” 🌿

One incarcerated woman's experience illuminates legal and theoretical issues

Law professor hopes book will impact policies, processes for pregnant women

by Paula E. Kirman

PRISON BORN:

Incarceration and Motherhood in the Colonial Shadow

Robin F. Hansen

University of Regina Press

\$39.95 pb, 336 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77940-007-9

Available as an ebook

Robin Hansen already knew that in most legal jurisdictions in Canada, a child born to an incarcerated woman is automatically separated from their mother at birth. However, this really hit home when in 2016 she received a phone call from “Jacquie,” an Indigenous woman serving a custodial prison sentence who was weeks away from giving birth.

Hansen, a law professor at the University of Saskatchewan, began to help Jacquie with her appeal and in doing so engaged in extensive research concerning the legal rights of pregnant women in custody – the vast majority of whom are Indigenous – and their babies.

Prison Born: Incarceration and Motherhood in the Colonial Shadow was written out of Hansen’s investigation into the lack of due process in a legal system driven by colonial and gendered assumptions – how both children and their mothers are denied personhood and suffer violations of their rights.

“This book was caused by my maternal outrage at how the Canadian legal system was behaving in a horrible fashion towards babies and mothers,” she explains.

Despite specializing in international law rather than Indigenous rights, Hansen felt compelled to write this book. “At root I wrote it because I was unable to let go of the fact that something so basic as a newborn’s ability to bond with their mother is being denied without a second

thought because of utter and widespread disregard for their rights,” she says.

In the book, Hansen uses systems theory and traces how the concept of *terra nullius* (and the associated

racist ideas that Indigenous people are “uncivilized” and “disappearing”) operates in the legal system and in other sectors of society. She hopes readers gain “a renewed awareness of how insidious dehumanizing assumptions are, and how they underpin a lot of the oppression that occurs in Canadian society.”

Despite the scholarly aspects, the book is not just legal and theoretical, but also tells the story of how Hansen represented Jacquie in her

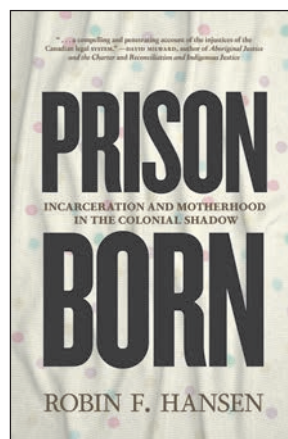
appeal in 2016. “The book analyzes her sentencing, the facts of her child’s birth, and what came after,” says Hansen.

“In other words, the book is also an account (with my former client’s support) of her experiences, and of how the system can indeed shift to make room for consideration of a child’s personhood and right to be taken seriously in the legal process.”

One of the most important conclusions Hansen draws in *Prison Born* is “just how deeply ingrained in settler consciousness the civilized versus uncivilized binary is. Without everyone engaging in some reflection, and in many cases reckoning with a sense of settler acknowledgment, guilt, or whatever you want to call it, the situation will just continue.”

Hansen hopes the book will have an impact on policies and practices regarding the sentencing of pregnant women and the treatment of incarcerated pregnant persons.

“There needs to be due process employed by state actors when major decisions affecting children are taken,” she says. “So my hope is that the book causes those ‘driving the train’ to consider choosing a slightly different track – one that stops dehumanizing children and gives them the chance to have their basic rights to health and due process respected.”



Robin F. Hansen

MORE NON-FICTION

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

AGA KHAN: BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST & WEST
Mansoor Ladha

During his reign of over 60 years, the current Aga Khan of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, Shah Karim al-Husseini, has been a champion of pluralism and diversity, and has worked to reduce extremism and radicalism. In this latest biography, Ladha describes his contributions, particularly his close connections with Canada where he has established world-renowned institutions in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Toronto. (Self-published, \$27.25 pb, 654 pages, ISBN: 979-833295918-9, available as ebook)

ALL OUR ORDINARY STORIES: A MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY ODYSSEY
Teresa Wong

This understated yet poignant graphic memoir explores the complicated family dynamics of a Chinese immigrant family and the cultural, historical, language, and personality barriers to intimacy, as well as the power of storytelling, in a journey through time and place beginning with Wong's mother's stroke in 2014 and going back to her mother's and father's lives during China's Communist and Cultural Revolutions. (Arsenal Pulp Press, \$24.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-949-3, available as ebook)

DEAR DA-LÊ: A FATHER'S MEMOIR OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION
Ahn Duong

In this intense memoir, a Vietnamese father tells his daughter about the traumas of his childhood in war-torn Vietnam and his years as a refugee in revolutionary Iran. He breaks a lifetime of silence when in 2012, his daughter is involved in student protests, and he feels the need to show her how activism can turn into violence. (Douglas & McIntyre, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, with b/w photos and map, ISBN: 978-1-77162-428-2)

EVERYTHING IS POA: ONE MAN'S SEARCH FOR PEACE AND PURPOSE IN EAST AFRICA
Jamey Glasnovic
Motivated by a profound belief in the power of the landscape, Glasnovic

committed to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, but it was the misadventures on his bicycle in Tanzania and Rwanda – and the warm and generous people he met along the way, along with the spectacular wildlife – that defined his journey. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$28.00 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-454-3)

FINDING OTIPEMISIWAK: THE PEOPLE WHO OWN THEMSELVES

Andrea Currie

Weaving lyrical prose, poetry, and essays, this book tells of Currie's journey as a Sixties Scoop survivor, from the time when she was profoundly disconnected from her Métis culture, through the years of searching and self-discovery, into the joys and sorrows of reuniting with her birth family. (Arsenal Pulp Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55052-955-4, available as ebook)

FUN IS WHERE YOU MAKE IT: AMUSING TALES FROM A TEACHER'S LIFE
Betty McGillivray

These lighthearted tales from a retired teacher describe various mishaps and escapades from her early adulthood through her teaching career and extracurricular activities, including pranks with college roommates, substitute teaching, community curling, and preparing for jury duty. (Wood Dragon Books, \$21.99 pb, 284 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-36-3, available as ebook)

HOMING: A QUEST TO CARE FOR MYSELF AND THE EARTH
Alice Irene Whittaker

In this thoughtful and lyrical memoir, Whittaker tells of how she escapes a life of perfectionism and productivity by moving with her young family to a cabin in the woods, where she begins to repair her relationship with both herself and the natural world, and find the "balance between the sorrow of wildfires and the beauty of wildflowers." (Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-74-3)

A LIFE IN PIECES
Jo-Ann Wallace

Bits of a rich life are excavated, with memories often prompted by places or objects, in this wise and

thought-provoking memoir that moves from a childhood in Montreal in the 1950s and 1960s, to young adulthood in Toronto in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and then into a professional life in Edmonton from the 1990s through the 2000s, ending with tenderness and awe in the wake of a cancer diagnosis.

(Thistledown Press, \$24.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-256-0)

MARS ON EARTH: WANDERINGS IN THE WORLD'S DRIEST DESERT
Mark Johanson

This travel memoir is about a gay journalist who navigates the otherworldly terrain of the Atacama Desert against the backdrop of Chile's 2019/2020 protests, and it highlights the stories of Chile's marginalized communities, including the working class, Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and immigrant communities. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$32.00 hc, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-676-9)

MÉTIS MATRIARCHS: AGENTS OF TRANSITION
Edited by Cheryl Troupe and Doris Jeanne MacKinnon

This collection of case studies explores the lives of several Métis matriarchs – Marie Rose Delorme Smith, Victoria Belcourt Callihoo, Josette Lagacé Work, Caroline McNabb, Julia Lamotte, Nora Cummings, and more – who lived in what is now Western Canada, revealing how Métis women played critical roles in navigating changes brought about by settlement and government control in the 19th century and beyond. (University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-011-6, available as ebook)

NEVER BETTER: TWO KIDS, THEIR DAD, AND HIS WIFE'S GHOST
Gonzalo Riedel

Riedel's wife died before their second son turned one, and as a grieving husband and single father, he had to keep his feelings in check while still keeping her memory alive for their two boys – this hopeful memoir tells how he managed to learn to find the hope in every day. (Dundurn Press, \$23.99 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4597-5039-5, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

(1979–): MORTIFICATIONS

Nathan Dueck

In this book, written as a series of epitaphs, Dueck shares sometimes hilarious, often heartbreaking, usually harrowing, and always mortifying bits of his life – the things he's done that he'd really rather no one knew about until long after he's dead, but which he can't keep inside any longer. (Turnstone Press, \$23.95 hc, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-786-4)

AN OPEN-ENDED RUN: A MEMOIR

Layne Coleman

In this thoroughly engaging memoir, Coleman looks back with a sense of wonder on his happy childhood on a Saskatchewan farm, his religious upbringing, his start in theatre in Winnipeg, his long career as an actor, playwright, and artistic director in Toronto, and his great love for his wife, who died much too young.

(University of Regina Press, \$22.95 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-026-0, available as ebook)

PEGGY & BALMER

Tom Radford

Filmmaker and writer Radford follows the lives of his grandparents, Peggy and Balmer Watt, two journalists who arrive in Edmonton on the first day of the province's life, September 1, 1905. Things don't go well for them, though – their marriage falls apart, their newspapers go bankrupt, and Alberta veers toward the extremist politics of today.

(NeWest Press, \$32.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-106-8, available as ebook)



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978-1-7772418-4-1, \$11.99

SHE WON THE VOTE FOR WOMEN: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LILLIAN BEYNON THOMAS

Robert E. Hawkins

This full-length biography describes how Lillian Beynon Thomas used her work as a journalist, a playwright, and an activist to lobby for the rights of women and succeed in her suffragist campaign that saw Manitoba become the earliest federal or provincial Canadian jurisdiction to grant some women the right to vote.

(Great Plains Press, \$28.95 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-128-3)



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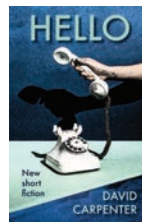
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Troy Nahumko

This memoir in essays explores Cáceres and Extremadura, Spain, by immersing the reader in local histories, food, art, and conversation, as Prairie-raised Nahumko describes his life in his wife's homeland, where they have raised their family for the past 15 years.

(University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 328 pages, with b/w illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77212-774-4, available as ebook)

STRONG AND FREE: MY JOURNEY IN ALBERTA POLITICS

Ted Morton

Informed by his experience as a professor of political science, Morton's book shares the lessons he's learned from his lifetime in Alberta politics and discusses his conservative ideological principles and goals.

(University of Calgary, \$38.99 pb, 524 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-597-4, available as ebook)

THE TRAITOR'S DAUGHTER: CAPTURED BY NAZIS, PURSUED BY THE KGB, MY MOTHER'S ODYSSEY TO FREEDOM FROM HER SECRET PAST

Roxana Spicer

This book chronicles the decades-long quest of Spicer, an investigative journalist, to understand her extraordinary mother, who was born in Lenin's Soviet Union, served as a combat soldier in the Red Army, and endured three years of Nazi captivity, but never revealed her secrets – how she escaped Germany, what the tattoo on her arm meant, even her real name.

(Viking Press-PRH, \$36.00 hc, 464 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-4653-9, available as ebook and audiobook)

TWO SPRINGS, ONE SUMMER: A YEAR INSIDE THE LIFE OF A CHRONIC ADVENTURER

Frank Wolf

Something of a misfit in the modern world, the renowned adventurer reveals that his remote explorations, this time to Canada's northern wilderness – across glaciers, and down tundra rivers – are in many ways easier for the wanderer than the fallow times.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$28.00 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-684-4)

WHEN THE PINE NEEDLES FALL: INDIGENOUS ACTS OF RESISTANCE

Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel, with Sean Carleton

Offering an intimate look at Gabriel's life leading up to the 1990 siege of Kanehsatà:ke and Kahnawà:ke, her experiences as a spokesperson for her community, and her work since then as an Indigenous land defender, human rights activist, and feminist leader, this book is more than a memoir of an extraordinary person – Gabriel also provides insight into Indigenous language, history, and philosophy, and calls to action against colonialism and captialism.

(Between the Lines, \$32.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77113-650-1)

WHO WE ARE: FOUR QUESTIONS FOR A LIFE AND A NATION

Murray Sinclair, with Sara Sinclair and Niigaan Sinclair

The Honourable Murray Sinclair shares his full story and his full vision for our nation, structuring it around the four questions

that have long shaped his thinking – Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? Who am I? – and exploring how his unique experiences shaped him as an Anishinaabe man, father, and grandfather.

(McClelland & Stewart-PRH, \$39.95 hc, 480 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-9910-6, available as ebook and audiobook)

ESSAYS

BECAUSE SOMEONE ASKED ME TO: OBSERVATIONS ON HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND THE PASSING SCENE

Guy Vanderhaeghe

A selection of previously uncollected reviews, lectures, introductions, essays, and so on, from the 40-plus-year career of the award-winning Saskatchewan author displays his insight, humour, intelligence, and Prairie sensibility to great effect.

(ThistleDown Press, \$25.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-258-4)

THE CANADIAN SHIELDS: STORIES AND ESSAYS

Carol Shields, edited by Nora Foster Stovel

This gathering of previously uncollected (and some unpublished) stories and essays, addresses, reviews, and so on, by the beloved author includes a foreword by Margaret Atwood, an afterword by Lorna Crozier, and introductions to the book and sections by Stovel.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$29.95 pb, 336 pages, with bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-082-7, available as ebook)

THE DAY MY MOTHER WALKED ON WATER: AN ESSAY COLLECTION

Helen Mourie

These gentle and thoughtful personal essays contemplate experiences that range from childhood memories to the deaths of parents, from gardening in small-town Saskatchewan to travels in Hungary and Italy, and from moments as light as a truck ride with a grandson to as heavy as cancer treatments – a truly lovely collection.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 124 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77869-038-9)

EVERYTHING AND NOTHING AT ALL

Jenny Heijun Wills

Wills explores her identity as a Korean-born, Canadian-adopted child, how literature changed her life, her pan-polyam identity in

the face of heteronormativity, her lifelong eating disorder, and life as a parent with nuance and beauty in this complex essays.

(Knopf Canada-PRH, \$34.95 hc, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-0390-0984-4, available as ebook and audiobook)

RECOMBINANT THEORY

Joel Katelnikoff

This collection of literary essays challenges how readers interact with and perceive text, context, and critical writing.

Katelnikoff literally cut up works of 10 contemporary poet-theorists – Annharte, Charles Bernstein, Christian Bök, Johanna Drucker, L. Hejinian, Steve McCaffery, Erin Moure, Sawako Nakayasu, Lisa Robertson, and Fred Wah – and recombined the cut-ups into new lyric and theoretical essays.

(University of Calgary Press, \$26.99 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-579-0, available as ebook)

SENESCENCE: A YEAR IN THE BOW VALLEY OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Amal Alhomsy

Senescence can be defined as the gradual process of aging, and Alhomsy centres his fluid and evocative essays on this concept, sharing his impressions of a year spent in Alberta's Bow Valley, and reflecting on all of the wonders and transformations of the natural world.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-711-7)

TRAVELS UP THE CREEK: A BIOLOGIST'S SEARCH FOR A PADDLE

Lorne Fitch

This collection of essays explores human-nature connections and underscores empathy, prompting readers to safeguard imperiled species and threatened places, and inspiring change through education and a touch of righteous anger.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-713-1)

WRITING UKRAINE

Myrna Kostash

Based on her writer-in-residence lecture at the Athabasca University, this essay offers Kostash's self-critical reflection on her past writing and considers how her visits to Ukraine and the ongoing war have led to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

more nuance in her writing and a deeper understanding of Ukrainian Canadian identity. (Athabasca University Press, \$17.99 pb, 48 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77199-422-4, available as ebook)

GUIDES

THE ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD BABY: A PARENT-TESTED GUIDE FOR MOMS WHO WANT TO BREASTFEED AND SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT
Susan Vukadinovic

After meeting with hundreds of mothers at prenatal and new-baby workshops, Vukadinovic has woven together their common-sense wisdom to compile these tips for breastfeeding, sleeping, and weaning to solids – step-by-step instructions to get a parent from birth to their baby’s third birthday.

(FriesenPress, \$29.25 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-03-918076-5, available as ebook)

CONCEIVABLE: A GUIDE TO MAKING 2SLGBTQ+ FAMILY

Laine Halpern Zisman,
illustrated by Kelsy Vivash

This practical guide to navigating the politics, challenges, choices, and opportunities in 2SLGBTQ+ fertility, conception, and family building in Canada is for birthing parents, non-gestational parents, families seeking a surrogate or donor, and those who do not yet know what they need, and it includes illustrations, worksheets, and activities. (Fernwood Publishing, \$27.00 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-689-4, available as ebook)

FLYING SOULO: YOUR STORY ONSTAGE
Tracey Smith

This inspiring guide, with exercises, insights, and anecdotes throughout, details the 13-step SOULO storytelling and creation method that can transform personal experience into a powerful one-person show. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-65-4)

NAKÓN-WJCO’YÉ NÉ USPÉNJC’ICIYAC / PRACTISING NAKODA: A THEMATIC DICTIONARY
Vincent Collette, Tom Shawl,
and Wilma Kennedy

This user-friendly guide teaches the core Nakoda vocabulary, organized into 30 themes such as animals, clothing, directions, and time, and how to use it

in daily conversation and ceremonial communication.

(University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 216 pages, with bibliography, ISBN: 978-1-77940-018-5, available as ebook)

RELEASING YOUR NEED TO PLEASE: ESCAPING ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH NARCISSISTIC WOMEN

James Butler

This book offers practical tools for developing the self-esteem and skills necessary to escape relationships that are hurtful rather than loving.

(Wood Dragon Books, \$21.99 pb, 252 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-30-1, available as ebook)

SACRED GEOMETRY FOR THE SOUL, VOLUMES I AND II

Ann Chatfield

These guides to using mandalas to help shift one’s energy and bring more harmony into one’s world each include over 60 full-colour mandalas that contain sacred geometry, colours, and symbols. (Wood Dragon Books, \$47.99, 196 and 204 pages, ISBNs: 978-1-990863-06-6 (Vol. I), 978-1-990863-63-9 (Vol. II), available as ebooks)

SPARK: ALICE KUIPERS ON WRITING FOR KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Alice Kuipers

Including tips and techniques for igniting initial ideas and drafting, editing, publishing, and promoting a book, and for managing other aspects of the writing life, this practical guide leads aspiring writers of children’s and/or young adult books through the entire process, providing examples and exercises along the way. (University of Regina Press, \$22.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-022-2, available as ebook)

WAHWAYKINISHOO D’EN LI KAPOT / WRAP YOURSELF IN TRADITION: A GUIDE TO MAKING A MÉTIS-STYLE CAPOTE

Suzan Lagrove Couillard
and Brenda Hryciuk

This guide provides step-by-step instructions for creating a pattern and sewing by hand a capote from a wool blanket, and it also includes the history of the capote and its connection to Métis heritage.

(Gabriel Dumont Institute Press, \$25.00 spiral-bound, 64 pages, with colour images throughout, ISBN: 978-1-988011-25-7)

THE WILD WEST COOKBOOK, SECOND EDITION
Cinda Chavich

From quesadillas to prairie oysters, from corn bread to fruit pies, the 90 classic and modern recipes in this new edition are uncomplicated and homey, but refined. This book also includes a fun and informative history of cowboy cuisine and a guide on how to stock the perfect Wild West pantry. (Robert Rose, \$24.95 pb, 208 pages, with colour images throughout, index, ISBN: 978-0-7788-0725-4)

WILDLIFE, LANDSCAPES, AND GEOLOGY: AN ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN TOURING GUIDE

Dale Leckie

In this guide, the relationship between wildlife and landscape is explored in observations of the golden eagles in the Rockies, the American pika and eroding mountains, burrowing owls on glaciated plains, and more.

(Broken Poplars, \$29.95 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9959082-0)

PUZZLES

O CANADA CROSSWORDS, BOOK 25

Gwen Sjogren

Celebrating a quarter century of crossword puzzles, Book 25 includes 25 Canadian-themed puzzles and 25 generic Canadiana crosswords, plus pun puzzles, 10 specialty puzzles, and three “challenger” puzzles. (Nightwood Editions, \$18.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-472-4)

OTHER NON-FICTION

AIM HIGH: GROWING THE MOTIVATIONAL POTENTIAL OF YOUTH PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Jacqueline Pei and Lia M. Daniels

Using the AIM Model (Assessment for Intervention and Motivation), the authors provide a framework on which all those involved in psychological assessment of children and youth can organize and evaluate their existing practices.

(University of Toronto Press, \$32.95 pb, 176 pages, with b/w illustrations, figures, tables, ISBN: 978-1-4875-5808-6, available as ebook)

**THE AUDACITY OF RELEVANCE:
CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS ON THE
FUTURE OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

Alex Sarian

Sarian and leaders from across industries discuss how cultural organizations need to embrace a greater civic mandate and sustain a business model based on relevance, addressing topics such as the democratization of philanthropy, the disregard of consumer behaviour, and the need to commit to social justice and reconciliation.

(ECW Press, \$34.95 hc, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-773-1, available as ebook)

**BROWN TOM'S SCHOOLDAYS, FIRST VOICES,
FIRST TEXTS No. 7**

Enos T. Montour, edited by Mary Jane Logan McCallum

Self-published in 1985, and drawn from Montour's experiences at Mount Elgin Indian Residential School between 1910 and 1914, this book tells the story of a young boy's life at residential school where he makes friends, witnesses illness and death, and endures constant hunger. It positions Brown Tom and his schoolmates as citizens of three worlds: the reserve, the "white man's world," and the school in between. (University of Manitoba Press, \$24.95 pb, 160 pages, with b/w illustrations, maps, glossary, bibliography, ISBN: 978-1-77284-086-5, available as ebook)

**BY STRENGTH, WE ARE STILL HERE:
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND INDIAN
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLING IN INUVIK,
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Crystal Gail Fraser

This book shares the lived experiences of Indigenous northerners from 1959 until 1982, illuminating student experiences in northern residential schools and revealing the many ways Indigenous communities resisted the institutionalization of their children.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 320 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-094-0, available as ebook)

**CALGARY'S INFANTRY REGIMENT: A PICTORIAL
HISTORY OF THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS**

Michael A. Dorosh

This richly illustrated comprehensive history of the Calgary Highlanders goes

back to the creation of the 103rd Regiment, Calgary Rifles, in 1919 and includes glimpses of Calgary's infantry units in the First World War, and the service of the Calgary Highlanders in the Second World War, peacekeeping and NATO missions around the world, and the war in Afghanistan.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$50.00 hc, 440 pages, ISBN: 978-0-969461-64-7)

**CALGARY'S MOST HAUNTED: URBAN
HAUNTINGS AND PERSONAL
ENCOUNTERS IN STAMPEDE CITY**

Ian Gibbs

Ghost-walk guide and host of the *Ghosts 'N Bears* podcast Ian Gibbs returns to Calgary, the city of his childhood, to reckon with his earliest experiences of the supernatural, corroborate some of the city's better known hauntings, and uncover many more. These 30 stories are set everywhere from heritage homes and official historic sites to strip malls and suburban basements.

(TouchWood Editions, \$24.00 pb, 192 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77151-399-9)

**CANADA'S AIR FORCE: THE ROYAL
CANADIAN AIR FORCE AT 100**

David J. Bercuson

Drawing on memoirs, diaries, unpublished histories, archival sources, interview transcripts, and standard reference works, Bercuson shares the history of the first 100 years of the RCAF, from its inception in 1924 to its centennial in 2024.

(University of Toronto Press, \$44.95 hc, 352 pages, with b/w illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0936-1, available as ebook)

**THE CANADIAN NON-PROFIT
SECTOR: NEOLIBERALISM AND THE
ASSAULT ON COMMUNITY**

Ted Richmond and John Shields

This comprehensive overview of the Canadian non-profit sector – the creativity and resilience of non-profits in maintaining and expanding services, and the vital role non-profits play in advocacy for human rights, anti-racism, Indigenous claims, and improved health and social services – provides a vital analysis of the significance of the non-profit sector in neoliberal times.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$27.00 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-669-6, available as ebook)

**CAUGHT IN THE EYE OF THE
STORM: URBAN REVITALIZATION IN
TORONTO'S LAWRENCE HEIGHTS**

Jon Careless

This case-study analysis of the public housing district of Lawrence Heights in North York, Toronto, presents a chronological narrative of change and upheaval there, beginning with its origins after the Second World War and continuing to follow the community as it became more racialized and oppressed in the late 20th century.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$28.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-688-7, available as ebook)

**CHARGED: THE DANGEROUS AND MISGUIDED
PROMISE OF THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

M. G. Bucholtz

This book explores the backstory behind the push for electric vehicles, looking at the history of energy storage using batteries, and the availability and sustainability of the metals, minerals, and chemicals used in making lithium-ion batteries, and argues that the use of electric vehicles will not save the planet, but only ease people's guilt and divert their attention.

(Wood Dragon Books, \$27.99, 268 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-67-7, available as ebook)

**DIGITAL MEMORY AGENTS
IN CANADA: PERFORMANCE,
REPRESENTATION, AND CULTURE**

Edited by Matthew Cormier and Amanda Spallacci

Embracing interdisciplinary approaches, the contributors explore how digital media, like memories, can transcend space and time to affect individuals and communities, and how digital traces of counter-memories – the stories that society has historically and presently tried to silence – leave their mark on various cultures, policies, and ideologies in Canada. (University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-744-7, available as ebook)

**DOING DEMOCRACY DIFFERENTLY:
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND REPRESENTATION
IN CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA**

Roberta Rice

Based on the structured, focused comparison of four success stories from across Northern Canada, Bolivia, and Ecuador, this book provides real-world examples

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

of how Indigenous autonomy and self-determination may be successfully advanced using existing democratic mechanisms. (University of Calgary Press, 176 pages, with illustrations, \$62.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-563-9; \$34.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-564-6; available as ebook)

FIERCE, FABULOUS, AND FLUID: HOW TRANS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORK AT GENDER NONCONFORMITY

LJ Slovin

Based on a year-long ethnographic study conducted in a Canadian high school, Slovin presents a poignant critique of educational policies aimed at supporting trans and gender-nonconforming youth in school, policies that through their narrow definition of trans identity leave many youth feeling excluded and unseen. Despite their lack of recognition, these young people persevered and worked to expand notions of gender, as shown in the stories Slovin shares. (University of Regina Press, \$32.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-050-5, available as ebook)

FOLKLIFE AND SUPERSTITION: THE LUCK, LORE AND WORLDVIEWS OF PRAIRIE HOMESTEADERS

Sandra Rollings-Magnusson

This history of folk traditions, beliefs, and culturally diverse customs in the early homesteading era on the Canadian Prairies (1867–1914) gives insight into homesteaders' daily lives, and shows how they built communities with others from different backgrounds to create a culture that blended the old with the new. (Heritage House, \$29.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77203-506-3)

THE FORT MCKAY MÉTIS NATION: A COMMUNITY HISTORY

Peter Fortna

Completed in partnership with the community, this definitive history of the Fort McKay Métis Nation in northern Alberta traces the evolution of the community from the mid-19th century to the early 21st century, paying attention to genealogy, land use, and responses to mass oil sands development. (University of Calgary Press, 272 pages, with images, \$64.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-591-2; \$34.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-592-9; available as ebook)

FURS, FLEAS, AND FLUKES: THE FASCINATING WORLD OF PARASITES
Michael Stock

Stock examines how parasites can modify mammal behaviour, shape their appearance, determine where they live, and influence how they survive, and he also takes into account the potential impact of environmental changes on the ecological balance between mammals and their parasites.

(University of Toronto Press, \$32.95 hc, 312 pages, with colour illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0922-4, available as ebook)

GOT BLOOD TO GIVE: ANTI-BLACK HOMOPHOBIA IN BLOOD DONATION

OmiSoore H. Dryden

Through storytelling, theorizing, and discourse analysis, this book investigates how racist and homophobic nation-building policies became enshrined in blood donation practices.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$28.00 pb, 124 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-695-5, available as ebook)

HEALING DISQUIET: AN INTEGRATIVE MODEL FOR RELATIONAL THERAPY

Sam Berg

This book presents the foundational ideas useful for anyone who is starting out as a counsellor, for anyone who engages in helping through conversation, and for anyone curious about what counselling entails. (Living Water Press, \$21.99 pb, 188 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-57-8, available as ebook)

HIDDEN POLITICS IN THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Adam Sneyd

Sneyd's analysis of the politics of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which are generally believed to contribute to a more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful world, counters this utopian view, revealing how the SDGs are infused with a political orientation that advances capitalist interests.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$24.00 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-690-0, available as ebook)

THE HOMELESSNESS OF BEING: HEIDEGGER AND THE MEANING OF EXISTENCE

Prashan Ranasinghe

This dialogue between sociology and the early and middle phases of Heidegger's

writings argues that to be human is to be homeless, in an ontological sense, where one is distanced and separated from the essence of one's self or being, and discusses whether anxiety and boredom reveal the essential homelessness of human existence.

(University of Alberta Press, \$36.99 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-768-3, available as ebook)

HOT MESS: MOTHERING THROUGH A CODE RED CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Sarah Marie Wiebe

The experience of mothering in a year of extreme heat, fires, and floods shaped Wiebe's politics of parenting, and revealed the layers, textures, and nuances of the disastrous emergencies we encounter in a world dominated by extractive capitalism. (Fernwood Publishing, \$25.00 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-566-8, available as ebook)

I'M JUST GERRY, LIKE AN ANT ON A BLUEBERRY PIE: BUILDING A FOREVER COMPANY THE PRICE WAY

Rob Wozny

This book tells the story of how Gerry Price grew Price Industries into a Prairie powerhouse, expanding from Canada into the United States and taking it from sales of \$30 million to over \$1 billion, guided by the 13 tenets that make up the Price Way. (Wood Dragon Books, \$21.99 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-31-8, available as ebook)

INDIGENOUS HEALING AS PARADOX: RE-MEMBERING AND BIOPOLITICS IN THE SETTLER COLONY

Krista Maxwell

This social history of the ways Indigenous Peoples have engaged and navigated the welfare state to promote survival and well-being in the midst of Canadian settler colonialism reveals how Indigenous healing is a paradox, since an intervention to foster well-being might simultaneously aim to eliminate distinct Indigenous societies.

(University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-574-0, available as ebook)

INSURGENT ECOLOGIES: BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLES AND POSTCAPITALIST TRANSFORMATION

Edited by Undisciplined Environments Collective

Movements against environmental and climate injustice have forced the question of “system change” to the centre of the political agenda, bringing together broader struggles for overcoming the racist, patriarchal, and colonial structures of global capitalism.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$35.00 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-691-7, available as ebook)

IT’S NATION TIME: A PROGRESSIVE DEFENCE
Jerry White

This book defends the relevance of national identity and nationhood, saying they are a key part of a vision of globalization that holds the imperatives of diversity and solidarity in a delicate balance.

(McGill-Queen’s University Press, \$39.95 hc, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-0-2280-2296-1, available as ebook)

KICKING OUT THE BUCKET LIST: LIVING LIFE WITH INTENTION AND PASSION
Glenda Mitchell

Using her own stories of adventure and rich experiences, this motivational coach encourages readers to live their lives to the fullest, starting now.

(Wood Dragon Books, \$24.99 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-60-8, available as ebook)

LIVING AND LEARNING WITH FEMINIST ETHICS, LITERATURE, AND ART

Edited by Dominique Héту, Libe García Zarranz, Amanda Fayant, and Marier Carrière

This transdisciplinary collection investigates relations of “living and learning with,” seeing them as compelling forms of encounter, engagement, and care between self and other human, non-human, and more-than-human beings. (University of Alberta Press, \$39.99 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-771-3, available as ebook)

MANOMIN: CARING FOR ECOSYSTEMS AND EACH OTHER

Edited by Brittany Luby, Margaret Lehman, Andrea Bradford, Samantha Mehlretter, and Jane Mariotti, with Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation, illustrated by Dani Kastelein

Manomin, more commonly known as its English misnomer *wild rice*, is the only cereal grain native to Turtle Island, and is seen by the Anishinaabeg as a gift from Creator. This book offers a community-engaged analysis of the grain, weaving together the voices of scholars, chefs, harvesters, engineers, poets, and artists to share the plant’s many lessons about living well in the world.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$29.95 pb, 240 pages, with colour illustrations, maps, glossary, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-090-2, available as ebook)

THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER

Brian McFarlane

This official NHL authorized biography of the Toronto Maple Leafs by one of hockey’s most prominent Hockey Hall of Famers is a stunning tribute to the hockey team and includes an extensive, never-before-seen collection of the Leaf’s organization photographs.

(At Bay Press, \$26.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988779-42-0)

MÉTIS MUSIC: STORIES OF RECOGNITION AND RESURGENCE

Monique Giroux

What makes music Métis, and who gets to decide? This book charts how complex dynamics of recognition, non-recognition, and erasure have played out over a history of Métis music making, from the Red River Resistance to the present day, and shows how Métis have resisted settler recognition and erasure.

(McGill-Queen’s University Press, 276 pages, with photos, tables, \$110.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-2225-1; \$38.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-2226-8; available as ebook)

MYTHOLOGIES OF OUTER SPACE

Edited by Jim Ellis and Noreen Humble

Artists, literary scholars, art critics, scientists, a poet, an astronaut, an astronomer, and more explore how

humanity thinks about outer space in this joyful, curious book.

(University of Calgary Press, 176 pages, with illustrations, \$54.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-586-8; \$34.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-587-5; available as ebook)

PRAIRIE ODDITIES: PUNKINHEAD, PECULIAR GRAVITY, AND MORE LESSER KNOWN HISTORIES

Darren Bernhardt

Stories that have faded from history are revitalized in this collection of anecdotes from the middle of Canada – stories like the gunslinging fugitive who became a folk hero, the curious battle for Kenora, the lost bells of St. Boniface, and how the bison were saved from extinction.

(Great Plains Press, \$36.95 pb, 336 pages, with archival images, ISBN: 978-1-77337-122-1)

PURSUING PLAY: WOMEN’S LEISURE IN SMALL-TOWN ONTARIO, 1870–1914

Rebecca Beausaert

Drawing on diaries, letters, newspapers, and census records, this book investigates women’s recreational activities in three small Ontario towns between 1870 and 1914, revealing how gender, class, and ethnicity shaped the nature and scope of women’s leisure.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$29.95 pb, 400 pages, with illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-077-3, available as ebook)

RECKONING WITH HISTORY: ESSAYS ON USES OF THE PAST

Edited by K. M. Kesselring and Matthew Neufeld

Covering subjects such as early archival practices, memories of historic plagues, and the type of commemorations needed to revitalize liberal democracies, these essays on the uses of history as a practical activity and as an approach to thinking about the present contextualize the uses of the past today.

(McGill-Queen’s University Press, \$110.00 hc, 272 pages, with drawings, ISBN: 978-0-2280-2242-8)

Research grows into graphic novel following 2SLGBTQIA+ Indigenous hockey player

Through Chase's story, writers question toxic masculinity in sports, provide hope for youth

by Amanda Sanders

BETWEEN THE PIPES

Albert McLeod, with Elaine Mordoch and Sonya Ballantyne

Art by Alice RL

HighWater Press-Portage & Main Press

\$21.95 pb, 56 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77492-104-3ay

Albert McLeod, together with Elaine Mordoch, Sonya Ballantyne, and illustrator Alice RL, have created *Between the Pipes*, a YA graphic novel about a 2SLGBTQIA+ Indigenous hockey player named Chase, who is struggling to come to terms with his identity, and how the Elders in Chase's community and their cultural teachings play a vital role in supporting him.

Winnipeg-based writer, activist, and consultant McLeod was inspired to create this story at a suicide prevention convention at the University of Manitoba during which there was no specific content about Two-Spirit people or their issues.

"I brought this oversight to the attention of Elaine [Mordoch, story contributor], and we agreed to develop a Two-Spirit-specific suicide prevention resource for youth."

McLeod and Mordoch, who is an associate professor and research affiliate at the College of Nursing, University of Manitoba, had previously conducted research for the Winnipeg Suicide Prevention Network.

"We felt it was important to use the knowledge gained from these studies to educate and help people understand issues related to youth coming to terms with their sexual and cultural

identity. We wanted to show that there are ways to resolve these issues and to provide hope to youth, especially in terms of athletic toxic masculinity," Mordoch says.

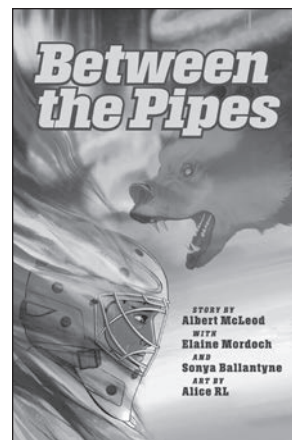
Turning research into a form that would attract the target audience took a bit of thinking. "The graphic novel is popular with the age group that we wanted to reach. It also provides visual representations of Indigenous identity and ceremony," McLeod says.

Mordoch adds that, while it hadn't been the original goal of the project, "As we learned about [graphic novels] from younger people in our circles and identified our audience as young teens, this format intrigued us, and we saw it as a powerful, compelling way to deliver the story. We believe that the vivid graphic art and the accompanying text will attract youth to the story and help them to believe in the message."

That vibrant art was created by Alice RL, a non-binary Ojibwe artist, professional illustrator, and art teacher based in Winnipeg. *Between the Pipes* is their first full-length graphic novel. They drew inspiration from their own life, including their dad and one of their friends, as well as from the reference material provided to them by the writing team.

RL believes that representation matters. "I always think there need to be many more stories written by Queer people," they say. "I can show that as an Indigenous Queer person, being a part of creating these stories is possible."

The whole creative team believes that *Between the Pipes* is an important story to tell. "North American professional sports like hockey, baseball, and football are presented as an exclusive domain



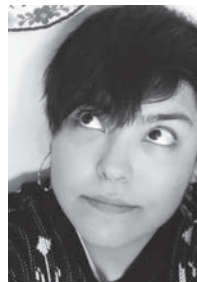
Albert McLeod



Elaine Mordoch



Sonya Ballantyne



Alice RL

of heterosexual/biological males, regardless of whether the players are 2SLGBTQI+,” McLeod says.

“This approach feeds social myths about male privilege and patriarchy that exclude and diminish the contributions of women and 2SLGBTQI+ people. This graphic novel is meant to disrupt this narrative and make sports and other traditional masculine roles more inclusive to 2SLGBTQI+ people.”

And Mordoch says of their book, “It provides hope for youth that there are supportive people, that there is help, and that Two-Spirit youth are valuable members of the community.” 🌿

MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

PICTURE BOOKS

AAMO-BINASHEE/HUMMINGBIRD

Jennifer Leason, translated into Anishinaabemowin by Norman Chartrand and Jennifer Leason
With vibrant illustrations and poetic language, this book tells how the ancestors and the teachings of the hummingbird messengers they send can save young ones who are caught in the Windigo's darkness and feeling alone and not good enough.
(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3714-0, available as ebook)

EXPLORE CANADA

Jocey Asnong
Now available in a hardcover edition, this lyrical book invites young readers to explore the capital cities, provinces, and territories of Canada, celebrating the diverse landscape, heritage, and outdoor traditions.
(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-719-3)

FJORD

Willy Wanggen
This magical picture book invites children to read nature – specifically a fjord of shorebirds, mountains, waves, and rocks – like a book where raindrops serve as

commas punctuating the day, and waves enclose the belugas like parentheses.
(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-734-6)

IT'S POWWOW TIME!

Martha Troian, illustrated by Hawlii Pichette
Inspired by her son who was initially too shy to leave her side at a powwow, Troian celebrates new experiences and community traditions in this story of young Bineshii, who gradually eases his body into the rhythm of the powwow music and makes his way from the edge of the circle to the inside of it.
(Greenwillow Books-HarperCollins, \$19.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-0-06-311666-5)

ONE BOX

Andi Vicente, illustrated by Allan Matudio
This warm and hopeful children's counting story is about a migrant worker sending a box of gifts and supplies to their loved ones in the Philippines. This box contains not only birthday candles, inline skates, and gardening supplies, but also wishes and promises to be reunited.
(Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$24.95 hc, 36 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-692-4, available as ebook)

THAT CHRISTMAS

Stéphanie Demasse-Pottier, illustrated by Lucie David
Celebrating the joy of family reunions during the holiday season, this charming picture book follows two little bunnies who plan to be the first to wake early on Christmas day and surprise everyone in their whole bunny clan – parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents – with what they find.
(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-728-5)

THIS LAND IS A LULLABY

Tonya Simpson, illustrated by Delréé Dumont
This gentle and lush book – with pointillism-style artwork depicting the swish of the grasses, the flight of the geese, the sounds of the frogs, and more – shares a sacred song and dance from the ancestors that soothes children to sleep

and reminds them of their connection to the land.
(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3609-9, available as ebook)

WHAT INSPIRES

Alison Hughes, illustrated by Ellen Rooney
Inspiration is contagious in this delightful story of three friends who go to a park and get caught up in the dance of maple keys, which leads others to make music, draw pictures, construct castles, and tell stories, freely exercising their imaginations, and continuing to do so in their dreams at the end of the day.
(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3768-3, available as ebook)

THE WOLF'S SECRET

Morgane de Cadier, illustrated by Florian Pigé
In this story about leaving home, making friends, and being oneself, a young wolf sets out looking for a friend, but everyone he encounters is afraid of him and avoids him, even when he falls into the water and cries for help. Finally, a child provides a glimmer of hope and kindness.
(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-731-5)

EARLY YEARS CHAPTER BOOKS

GROUNDWORLD HEROES

Adrian So
This debut chapter book by a young Winnipeg author tells an adventurous story set in the world of Soiland, where a diverse society of gophers, aardvarks, badgers, mice, hares, rats, anteaters, rabbits, shrews, moles, and more live in harmony until a human invasion threatens their existence. While the citizens of Soiland evacuate and end up in Puddeland, Benjamin, a junior mole digger, and Conner Meercat are left behind and must confront the humans on their own.
(Caterpillar-Monarch Educational Services, \$25.95 pb, 132 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9576-5662-5)

MYSTERY AT THE BILTMORE

Colleen Nelson, illustrated by Peggy Collins
To impress her detective parents and to give herself something to do over the summer, 10-year-old Elodie enlists her dog,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Carnegie, and her new neighbour, Oscar, to join in her own detective agency. What better way to get to know the characters in her building than to solve the case of Mrs. Vanderhoff's missing earrings? (Pajama Press, \$22.95 hc, 136 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77278-327-8)

MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

CAVE-IN

Pam Withers

Hudson's passion is caving, and his little town in the mountains is the perfect place for it. But due to irresponsible logging practices and a corrupt mayor, the town is in danger of experiencing a giant sinkhole, one even bigger than the one that swallowed a church full of people years ago. Can Hudson and his knowledge of caves convince the powers-that-be to take appropriate action? (Yellow Dog-Great Plains Press, \$18.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-124-5)

THE GENIUS HOUR PROJECT

Leanne Shirliff

Eleven-year-old Frazzie, in an attempt to fit in and ensure that the class bully Jake can't make fun of her, chooses to do her Genius Hour Project on women politicians, specifically her mother who is the mayor of Riverview, rather than on her true passion, vintage music and vinyl. But despite her best efforts, life keeps insisting that she embrace her uniqueness. (ThistleDown Press, \$16.95 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-257-7)

GHOSTS OF GASTOWN

Jessica Renwick

Twelve-year-old Hope and her mother move to the Gastown area of Vancouver to rebuild their lives after a horrible accident and an incident that revealed how Hope can see dead people – including her father. It turns out that Gastown is full of ghosts that only Hope can save, and luckily Oliver, whose parents own the crystal shop below their apartment, knows just enough about spirits and demons to help her. (Yellow Dog-Great Plains Press, \$18.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-126-9)

GROWING UP MÉTIS: STORIES OF RESILIENCY

Cort Dogniez, illustrated by Jade McDougall

In linked stories, Dogniez delves into the lives of two of his foremothers, his great-grandmother Josephine Gariepy, and his grandmother Clara Dumont, telling of their marginalization after the 1885 Resistance, with a focus on faith, storytelling, and resilience. (Gabriel Dumont Institute Press, \$17.50 pb, 96 pages, with glossary, guide questions, ISBN: 978-1-988011-34-9)

IZZY WONG'S NOSE FOR NEWS

Marty Chan

Izzy Wong is following in her journalist mother's footsteps, breaking big stories for her podcast. However, when her investigation into who flooded the girls' washroom and did considerable damage to the school goes beyond the facts into harmful gossip, all the while increasing the audience for her podcast, Izzy learns about ethical journalism the hard way. (Orca Book Publishers, \$14.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3937-3, available as ebook)

QUEST FOR BLACK BEACH

Neil Child

In the year 2113, four groups are trying to survive: robotia, "chips" or robots with high artificial intelligence and strict codes of conduct; roktillia, a mutated blend of mammal and reptile; pterosauria, large featherless flying creatures; and humanoids, who live along the waterways. Young brothers Killay and Buzz are rowing along a creek, with chip Westminster, battling various attackers as they make their way to Black Beach where they can reunite with their family. (Wood Dragon Books, \$17.99 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990863-28-8, available as ebook)

THE SHAPE OF LOST THINGS

Sarah Everett

Four years ago, Skye's father left, taking her brother Finn with him. Now, amidst all the other changes in Skye's life – friendships morphing, feelings becoming more confusing, her mother's relationship with Roger progressing – Finn has come home, and he has changed most of all. (HarperCollins, \$23.99 hc, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-06-325661-3, available as ebook and audiobook)

THE TIME KEEPER

Meagan Mahoney

Set in Edinburgh in 1902, this historical mystery follows 13-year-old Malcolm, an apprentice clockmaker, whose best friend Peter has a life-threatening illness, and whose master, Peter's father, Jack, is found dead inside a locked clock tower. Believing that Peter's illness and Jack's death are connected, Malcolm races against time to solve the puzzle and save his friend. (Dancing Cat Books-Cormorant Books, \$14.95 pb, 284 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-760-4)

WALTRAUT

Gabriele Goldstone

Waltraut, the 11-year-old daughter of German immigrants trying to start over, grows up in Winnipeg in the shadow of the Second World War, navigating between life at school where she is treated like an enemy foreigner and her weekends spent with German-speaking friends at German school and church. When her family moves to a new neighbourhood, she takes the opportunity to reinvent herself. (Wandering Fox-Heritage House, \$14.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77203-508-7, available as ebook)

MIDDLE YEARS GRAPHIC NOVELS

LITTLE BY LITTLE: YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Sonya Ballantyne, illustrated

by Rhael McGregor

This book tells the true story of Michael Redhead Champagne, an Indigenous activist, and how at a young age he found his voice at a youth conference and went on to use it to create change in his community. (HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$22.95 pb, 56 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-098-5)

LOST AT WINDY RIVER: A TRUE STORY OF SURVIVAL

Trina Rathgeber, illustrated by Alina Pete

Written by the granddaughter of the main character, Ilse Schweder, this book tells the true story of how a young Indigenous girl survived nine days lost in a snowstorm in northern Canada in 1944, and of how as an older woman, she began telling her stories in schools, taking her story back from

Farley Mowat, who wrote about it in *People of the Deer*.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3226-8, available as ebook)

MIDDLE YEARS NON-FICTION

HOW TO KNOW A CROW: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A BRAINY BIRD

Candace Savage, illustrated
by Rachel Hudson

This brilliantly illustrated book tells the engaging story of the crow Oki's life from the moment she emerges from her egg, showing how she moves through the seasons of life and how she sees and senses the world. A wealth of crow-related facts – on their evolution, nests, food, and much more – is also provided in attractively designed sidebars and inserts.

(Greystone Kids- Greystone Books, \$26.95 hc, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77164-916-2, available as ebook)

WILDLIFE CROSSING: GIVING ANIMALS THE RIGHT OF WAY

Joan Marie Galat

Part of the Orca Footprints series about social and environmental issues, this book explores the science of road ecology and what happens when highways, wildlife, and habitats intersect, and offers guidance on how young people can protect animals from roads.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 48 pages, with full-colour photos, resources, glossary, index, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3346-3, available as ebook)

YA FICTION

BEAST

Richard Van Camp

This gripping YA/adult crossover novel begins with the breakdown of the Treaty between the Dogrib and Chipewyan nations of the Northwest Territories, and explores, through realism and horror, the power of tradition versus the pull of a vengeful past. Lawson must try to keep the peace (without the help of adults) when Silver Crane, fresh out of jail and in the service of a ghoulish servant, is doing everything in his power to destroy it.

(Douglas & McIntyre, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77162-414-5, available as ebook)

THE DOOR IN LAKE MALLION, THE BRINDLEWATCH QUINTET, BOOK TWO

S. M. Beiko

After having his heart broken by his football star boyfriend and being given a dire diagnosis, Dunstan is ready to leave small town Knockum and realize his dreams of stardom. But his escape is interrupted when classmates kidnap him and offer him as a sacrifice to the magical door at the bottom of Lake Mallion. Will Dunstan have the chance to be who he is destined to be once he enters the world on the other side of the door?

(ECW Press, \$22.95 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-696-3, available as ebook)

IF WE TELL YOU

Nicola Dahlin

The normal, maybe a bit happier than normal, life of identical twins Cameron and Lewis is blown apart when their loving and wise parents kill two uninvited guests at a neighbourhood barbecue. What follows is a riveting thriller – separated from their parents and given only cryptic instructions, fake passports, and each other to work with, they head off to another country where nothing is certain and no one can be trusted. Whatever their names are, and wherever they end up, these characters will stay in readers' minds for a long time.

(Kids Can Press, \$22.99 hc, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-5253-1147-5)

SHOCK WAVE

Sigmund Brouwer

In this fast-paced reluctant detective story, Jake Ballard is spending the summer at his uncle's cottage, brooding about his family's sacrifices to the military life, when he, unknowingly, helps a young woman pull off a houseboat burglary. To save himself from the crime boss who wants his goods returned, Jake has to enlist the help of friends in the military and draw upon all the detecting skills he has to find the girl and figure out exactly what is going on.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3962-5, available as ebook)

YA GRAPHIC NOVELS

GOD FLARE, THE RECKONER RISES, VOL. 3

David A. Robertson, illustrated
by Scott B. Henderson

In this latest volume of The Reckoner Rises series, Cole, Eva, and their friends prepare for the newest threat from Mihko Laboratories. Brady is undergoing traditional healing ceremonies to overcome the brainwashing of Mihko, Pam is chosen to take the God Flare treatment and gain superpowers, and Lauren has her own source of strength – will this be enough to even the odds against Mikho and their monsters?

(HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$23.00 pb, 84 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-044-2)

LITTLE MOONS

Jen Storm, illustrated by Ryan Howe

Thirteen-year-old Reanna and her family grieve the loss of her sister Chelsea, who went missing a year ago; Reanna's mom moved to the city, and Reanna is left with her brother and father on the reserve. Can she let go of her anger and find comfort through tradition and the ever-present spirit of her sister?

(HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$22.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-107-4)

THE REZ DOCTOR

Gitz Crazyboy, illustrated
by Veronika Barinova

Based on a true story, this graphic novel tells of Ryan Fox, who decides to become a doctor after meeting a Blackfoot doctor in a school assembly, portraying the various challenges of stress, lack of support away from his community, and racism, and how he overcomes them.

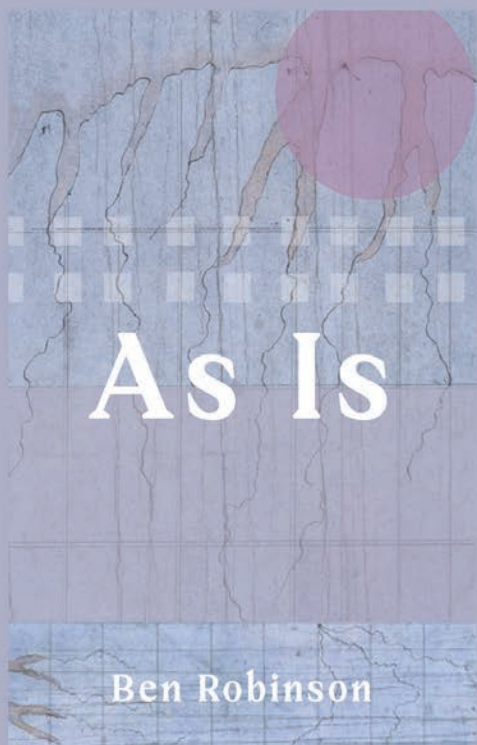
(HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$22.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-924-5)

WE ARE THE MEDICINE, SURVIVING THE CITY, VOL. 3

Tasha Spillett, illustrated
by Natasha Donovan

In their final year of high school, Miikwan and Dez are thinking about their futures when the remains of 215 children are found at a former residential school in British Columbia. They struggle to channel their anger and frustration into action that can lead to a more hopeful future.

(HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$21.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-110-4)



Ben Robinson's *As Is* is a study in place, the town of Hamilton Ontario, considering what it means to be connected to or attempt a connection to place as a settler.

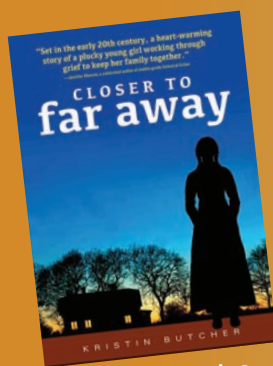
As Is searches for alternative frames for defining a local identity expanding the sense of time to include the prehistoric, the fossil record of mammoth and wapiti in the area, and expanding the sense of place to consider the treaty boundary as a possible frame work for understanding the region. Unusually for a book of poetry, it attempts reckoning with actual historical record.



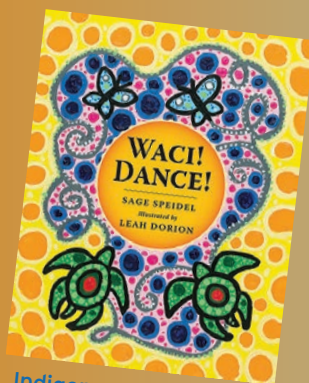
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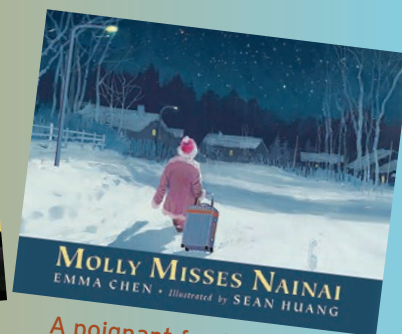
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Les photographies servent de fenêtres, d'échos de mots dans ce premier recueil de poésie

La beauté de la nature, l'équilibre entre l'interne et l'externe traversent en vagues les poèmes de Gaspard Amée

par Amber O'Reilly

SASAMAT

Gaspard Amée

Éditions du Blé

15,00 \$ papier, 72 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924915-98-1

Disponible en livre numérique

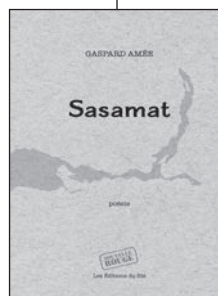
F oncer vers la côte Ouest et transmettre sa beauté et son mystère en vers instinctifs et rythmés – c'est ce qu'a réussi le poète d'origine suisse Gaspard Amée avec son premier recueil *Sasamat*, dont le titre évoque un lac situé à proximité de Port Moody en Colombie-Britannique. *Sasamat* poursuit et approfondit la tendance chez les recueils de poésie de la collection Nouvelle Rouge des Éditions du Blé à syntoniser une expérience humaine avec son écosystème.

La nature y est au premier plan et sert de tremplin à des méditations au souffle serein des mots posés comme des pas de danse mesurés.

« Tout part du rythme ou de la musique des mots », dit Amée. « La disposition et la mise en page visent à laisser les mots respirer et les suites de mots résonner. »

Les paysages, les cours d'eau, la faune et la flore sont représentés en images cristallines et rafraîchissantes qui livrent la même quiétude que les grands espaces qui les abritent.

La photographie faisant de la pratique créative de l'auteur, il prend beaucoup de photos au quotidien. « Je suis d'ailleurs fasciné par ces lieux silencieux, reproduits en photographie, que nous pouvons 'habiter' sur le papier, en toute liberté. » Les photos qu'il a choisi d'inclure dans les pages de *Sasamat* ont été prises en même temps que la composition des textes.



Photographs serve as windows, echoes of text in debut poetry collection

Beauty of nature, balance between internal/external wave through Gaspard Amée's poems

by Amber O'Reilly

SASAMAT

Gaspard Amée

Éditions du Blé

\$15.00 pb, 72 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924915-98-1

Available as a PDF

To transmit the beauty and mystery of the West Coast in instinctive and rhythmic verse – this is what the Swiss-born poet Gaspard Amée manages to achieve with his first collection of poetry *Sasamat*, whose title evokes a lake located near Port Moody in British Columbia. *Sasamat* continues and deepens the trend among the poetry collections published in Les Éditions du Blé's Nouvelle Rouge collection of exploring a human experience attuned with its ecosystem.

Nature is in the foreground and serves as a springboard for meditations that breathe serenity in words set down like measured dance steps. "Everything starts with the rhythm or music of the words," says Amée. "The arrangement and the layout aim to let the words breathe and the sequences of words resonate."

The landscapes, waterways, fauna, and flora are represented in crystalline and refreshing images that deliver the same tranquility as the wide open spaces that shelter them.

Photography is part of the author's creative practice, and he takes a lot of photos on a daily basis. "I am fascinated by these silent places, reproduced in photographs, that we can 'inhabit' on paper, in complete

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41

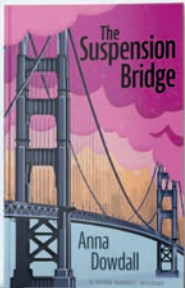
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—KATHERENA VERMETTE
author of *A Girl Called Echo*



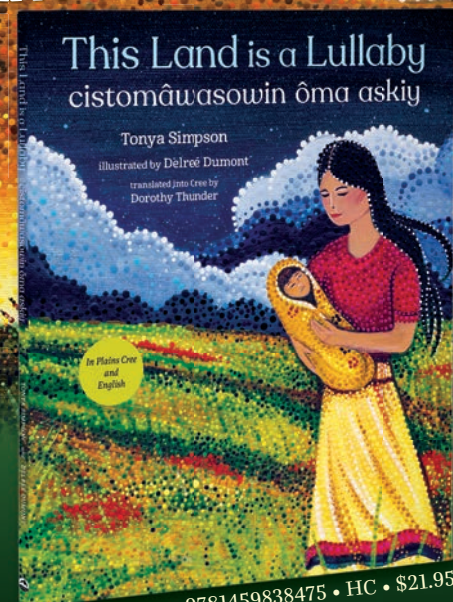
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*In Plains Cree
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★ "Luxuriantly alive... This eloquent and insightful picture book honors the enduring relationship between a child, their ancestors, and the land."

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« Je vois les images qui figurent dans ce recueil comme des fenêtres. Elles constituent des échos proches ou lointains aux textes, mais ce ne sont pas des reflets exacts ou des illustrations », dit Amée.

« Une lectrice m'a dit que pour elle, c'était une façon de découvrir une autre facette des textes. Dans mon esprit, les images prennent un peu la main des textes, et inversement, dans cette boucle qu'est *Sasamat*. »

Le « jeu de ricochets » qui s'exerce entre le visuel et le textuel s'exerce aussi entre le dedans et le dehors : ce qui appartient à soi et à autrui, ce qui lie l'humain à son environnement. Ces textes demandent à être chuchotés au creux d'une oreille ou à être hurlés du sommet d'une montagne.

« Il y a une sorte de funambulisme permanent entre intérieur et extérieur », dit Amée. « Je ne crains d'ailleurs rien autant que des rideaux fermés! En sortant, en nous promenant, nous faisons 'dialoguer' notre monde intérieur avec toutes sortes d'autres mondes. Mais cet échange est fragile. Je crois que la frontière entre intérieur et extérieur est la plus mince dans ces moments.

« Et je crois que le fait de s'accorder des moments, seul(e) à l'extérieur, est l'une des meilleures manières de cultiver son ou ses jardin(s) intérieur(s). » 🌿

freedom.” The photos he chose to include in the pages of *Sasamat* were taken at the same time as the poems were written.

“I see the images in this collection as windows. They constitute close or distant echoes of the texts, but they are not exact reflections or illustrations,” says Amée.

“A reader told me that for her, it was a way to discover another side of the texts. In my mind, the images take over the poems a bit, and vice versa, in this loop that is *Sasamat*.”

The “game of ricochets” that occurs between the visual and the textual also occurs between the inside and the outside: what belongs to oneself and to others, what links humans to the environment. These poems demand to be whispered into an ear or shouted from the top of a mountain.

“There is a sort of permanent tightrope-walking between interior and exterior,” says Amée. “Besides, I fear nothing so much as closed curtains! By going out, by walking, we make our inner world ‘dialogue’ with all kinds of other worlds. But this exchange is fragile. I believe that the border between interior and exterior is thinnest in these moments.

“And I believe that spending time alone outside is one of the best ways to cultivate your inner garden(s).” 🌿



Gaspard Amée

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Poèmes et histoires évoquent des émotions sincères dans un mélange littéraire et visuel

Des thèmes allant des relations, de la mort, des voyages, de la perception des autres

par Liz Katynski

À CŒUR OUVERT :

Quatre voix au féminin de l'Ouest canadien

Marie Carrière, Sharon Pulvermacher, Frédérique Roussel et Mychèle Fortin

Éditions de la nouvelle plume

20,00 \$ papier, 212 pages

ISBN : 978-2-925329-07-7

Disponible en livre numérique

Quatre autrices de l'Ouest partagent à cœur ouvert ce qui les inspire dans un nouveau recueil de poésie, conte et récits, *À cœur ouvert : Quatre voix au féminin de l'Ouest canadien*.

Les poèmes de Marie Carrière, professeure à l'Université de l'Alberta et résidente d'Edmonton, explorent les relations interpersonnelles, partageant les émotions, les moments et les expériences en mots. Elle a dédié ses écrits à ses deux filles et à sa mère.

« L'écriture littéraire pour moi est un vecteur de pensées, d'émotions et d'imaginaires. Elle porte la blessure, la joie aussi. Je dirais que mon style d'écriture est à la fois minimaliste, subtil et condensé, afin de faire porter, ou retentir les mots employés, le rythme, les sonorités, et laisser la lectrice ou le lecteur y creuser un sens, y dériver une image ou un sentiment », dit Carrière.

« J'écris car je crois à la littérature, à la poésie notamment, qui peut dire/percevoir/mieux comprendre/divulguer les choses comme l'absence, le deuil, le désir, la subjectivité, le paradoxe. autrement que la langue ordinaire ou quotidienne. »

« La soupe de trois jours », conte de l'artiste visuelle fransaskoise et résidente de Régina, Sharon Pulvermacher, c'est une histoire de la vie, de la mort et des ancêtres qui peuvent

Poems, stories evoke heartfelt emotion in mix of literature and visuals

Themes range from relationships, death, travel, to perception of others

by Liz Katynski

À CŒUR OUVERT :

Quatre voix au féminin de l'Ouest Canadien

Marie Carrière, Sharon Pulvermacher, Frédérique Roussel, and Mychèle Fortin

Éditions de la nouvelle plume

\$20.00 pb, 212 pages

ISBN: 978-2-925329-07-7

Available as an ebook

Four Western Canadian women writers open their hearts in a new collection of poems and stories called *À cœur ouvert: Quatre voix au féminin de l'Ouest Canadien*.

In her poems, University of Alberta professor and Edmonton resident Marie Carrière looks at relationships between people, putting emotions, moments, and experiences into words. She dedicates what she calls her “poems of presence and absence” to her two girls and her mother.

“For me, literary writing is a vector of thoughts, emotions, and imaginings. It carries pain and also joy. I would say my style is minimalist, subtle, and condensed in order for the reader to absorb the words, the rhythm, and the sound, to find their own meaning and derive an image or a feeling,” says Carrière.

“I write because I believe that literature, most notably poetry, can say, perceive, better understand, and divulge things like absence, mourning, desire, subjectivity, and paradox in a different way than ordinary or common language.”

Saskatchewan visual artist and Regina resident Sharon Pulvermacher shares a tale called “La soupe de trois jours” (“The Three-Day Soup”). The story is about life, death, and the ancestors who can help others to live a



nous aider à vivre un amour kénotique, un amour qui nous permet de nous donner complètement aux autres.

Elle a aussi illustré ce livre. Son écrit est inspiré par son travail.

« Être une doula en fin de vie a nourri des conversations considérées tabous par la culture dominante, des conversations sur le vieillissement, le but de la vie, les cycles de vie/mort/vie et l'interdépendance », dit Pulvermacher. « Écrire ce conte a ouvert la porte pour avoir ces conversations. »

Dans sa poésie et ses écrits, Frédérique Roussel de la Colombie-Britannique écrit pour exprimer ce qu'elle ressent dans son cœur au moment donné.

« Mon premier recueil était une façon pour moi de m'alléger de mon drame personnel et ainsi m'ouvrir à l'infini des possibilités, changeant ma perception de l'Autre et de ma réalité », dit Roussel.

Mychèle Fortin, qui vit en Saskatchewan, partage ses expériences de voyage. Elle se souvient aussi de son enfance et de sa famille au Québec.

« Voyager nourrit mes écrits car c'était toujours une partie très importante de ma vie. Mais parfois, un voyage dans une station de métro de Montréal peut laisser une impression aussi vivide qu'une marche dans un pauvre village en El Salvador », dit Fortin.

À l'instar des ouvrages des trois autres autrices, l'œuvre de Fortin évoque des expressions d'émotions du cœur.

« Je n'ai jamais pensé à ce qu'un lecteur retirera de mes histoires », dit-elle. « Peut-être ressentir un peu de ce que j'ai senti. »



Marie Carrière



Frédérique Roussel



Sharon Pulvermacher



Mychèle Fortin

kinotic love, a love love that allows them to give themselves entirely to others.

She also illustrated the book, and her story was inspired by her work.

“Being a death doula has fuelled conversations considered taboo in the dominant culture: conversations around aging, purpose, cycles of life/death/life, and interdependence,” says Pulvermacher. “Writing my story has opened a doorway to having those conversations.”

In her mix of poetry and prose, British Columbia resident Frédérique Roussel writes to share what she feels in her heart in a given moment.

“Writing the stories for this collection has been a way for me to alleviate my own personal drama and open myself up to infinite possibilities, changing my perception of others and my own reality,” says Roussel.

Mychèle Fortin, who lives in Saskatchewan, shares experiences from her many travels. She also recalls stories of her childhood and memories of her family in Quebec.

“Travel fuels my writing because it has been a very important part of my life. But sometimes, a ride in a metro station in Montreal can leave an impression as vivid as a walk in a godforsaken village in El Salvador,” says Fortin.

Like the work of the other three writers, Fortin's work evokes heartfelt emotion.

“I've never thought about what a reader would gain from reading my stories,” she says. “Maybe feel a bit of what I felt.”

VIENNENT DE PARAITRE EN FRANÇAIS

LES PAPILLONS DU QUÉBEC

Simone Hébert Allard, illustrations
de Janet La France

Agrémenté de photographies et d'illustrations humoristiques en pleine couleur, ce livre présente aux jeunes les principales espèces de papillons que l'on retrouve au Québec. Cette œuvre bien documentée décrit les faits biologiques, les modes de vie et les particularités les plus captivantes de chaque papillon, et témoigne d'une grande sensibilité envers la fragilité et l'importance de ces espèces

régionales. Embellished with humorous photographs and illustrations in full colour, this book introduces young people to the main species of butterflies found in Quebec. This well-documented work describes the biological facts, lifestyles, and most captivating characteristics of each butterfly, and shows a great sensitivity to the fragility and importance of these regional species. (Vidacom Publications-Éditions des Plaines, guide jeunesse, 16,95 \$ papier, 72 pages, ISBN : 978-1-989282-97-7)

LES PLAISIRS MALICIEUX

Marcien Ferland

Avec *Les plaisirs malicieux*, l'auteur emmène le lecteur dans les méandres de ce que la vie comporte de plus pur et de plus vicié. Avec un style concis, fluide, ponctué de perles langagières, ce recueil pique la curiosité et maintient l'intérêt malgré l'intensité de certains récits. With *Les plaisirs malicieux*, the author takes the reader on a meandering path through the purest and most flawed experiences that life has to offer. The concise, fluid style, punctuated by linguistic pearls of this collection piques the reader's curiosity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

and maintains their interest despite the intensity of some of the stories.
(Éditions des Plaines, nouvelles, 22,95 \$ papier, 152 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-901-1)

POÉSIE FRANCO-OUESTIENNE, 1974 – 2024

J. R. Léveillé

Conçue avec la collaboration de Marie-Diane Clarke, Eileen Lohka, Amber O'Reilly et Claudine Potvin, cette anthologie rassemble, pour la première fois, la poésie francophone contemporaine de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest – 50 ans de poésie, 71 poètes, plus de 200 poèmes. Des préfaces circonscrivent le contexte historique et l'actualité littéraire de chaque région. Une notice biobibliographique, souvent accompagnée de références critiques, identifie chaque poète et son œuvre. Conceived in collaboration with Marie-Diane Clarke, Eileen Lohka, Amber O'Reilly, and Claudine Potvin, this anthology brings together, for the first time, contemporary French-language poetry from the West and Northwest – 50 years of poetry, 71 poets, and over 200 poems. Prefaces provide historical and literary context from each region. A bio-bibliographical note, often accompanied by critical references, identifies each poet and their work.
(Éditions du Blé, anthologie poésie, 32,95 \$ papier, 390 pages, ISBN : 978-2-925452-03-4, disponible en livre numérique)

LES PREMIÈRES NATIONS, 2^E ÉDITION

Robert Livesey, illustrations de A. G. Smith, traduit de l'anglais par Marie-Hélène Duval
Ce livre, de la riche et innovante collection À la découverte du Canada, révèle une ère précédant l'arrivée des colons européens dans le vaste territoire qui allait devenir le Canada, à une époque où les terres étaient habitées par les Autochtones à eux seuls. *Les Premières Nations* permet aux jeunes lecteurs de mieux comprendre – de façon interactive et amusante – l'histoire et la culture des Autochtones au Canada. This book, part of the rich and innovative Discovering Canada series, reveals an era before European settlers arrived in the vast territory that would become Canada,

a time when the land was inhabited by Indigenous Peoples alone. *Les Premières Nations* give young readers a better understanding – in an interactive and fun way – of the history and culture of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.
(Vidacom Publications-Éditions des Plaines, histoire jeunesse, 22,95 \$ papier, 72 pages, ISBN : 978-1-989282-97-7)

REPENSER L'ACADIE DANS LE MONDE : ÉTUDES COMPARÉES, ÉTUDES TRANSNATIONALES

Sous la direction de Clint Bruce et Gregory M. W. Kennedy

Petite société francophone concentrée dans le Canada atlantique, l'Acadie renvoie tout autant à une multiplicité de réalités socioculturelles, depuis l'ère de la colonisation en Mi'kma'ki jusqu'aux grandes mutations contemporaines liées à la mondialisation. En ébranlant les idées reçues et les paradigmes établis, cet ouvrage présente une perspective indispensable pour comprendre la francophonie, et surtout le dynamisme, la persévérance et la diversité du peuple acadien. A small francophone society concentrated in Atlantic Canada, Acadia also refers to a multiplicity of socio-cultural realities, from the era of colonization in Mi'kma'ki to the major contemporary changes linked to globalization. By shaking up preconceived ideas and established paradigms, this book presents an essential perspective for understanding the Francophonie, and especially the dynamism, perseverance, and diversity of the Acadian people.
(McGill-Queen's University Press, essai, 49,95 \$ papier, 552 pages, avec photos, tables, ISBN : 978-0-2280-2270-1, disponible en livre numérique)

SOUS LES TILLEULS

Bertrand Nayet

Gina, journaliste/documentariste, cherche à récupérer le corps de son frère Paul, tué après avoir commis un attentat terroriste. Elle se rend dans un centre « médico-légal » quelques jours après y avoir fait une première visite avec tous les documents nécessaires en main.

Débute alors son jeu du chat et de la souris avec les autorités qui veulent obtenir sa coopération. Leur a-t-elle tendu un piège qui lui permettra d'obtenir des preuves qui pourront les inculper ? Gina, a journalist/documentarian, is trying to recover the body of her brother Paul, who was killed after committing a terrorist attack. She goes to a "forensic" centre a few days after making an initial visit with all the necessary documents in hand. Then she begins a game of cat and mouse with the authorities who want to gain her co-operation. Has she set a trap for them that will allow her to obtain evidence that can indict them?
(Éditions du Blé, théâtre, 17,95 \$ papier, 90 pages, ISBN : 978-2-925452-08-9, disponible en livre numérique)

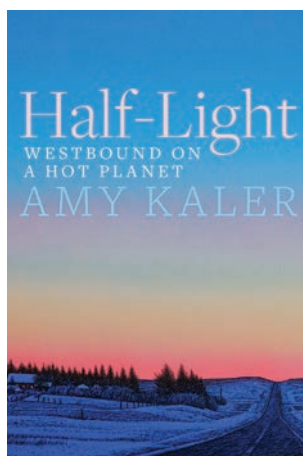
SUR LES SENTIERS BRULANTS DU VERTIGE

Laurent Poliquin

Traitant de la relation synergique entre le monde de la poésie et la poésie du monde, *Sur les sentiers brulants du vertige* sonde les gestes et les états d'âme posés dans et par la poésie. De poème en poème est ainsi interrogée, par reflets et réfractions, une constellation de thèmes associés à l'écriture poétique, dont l'inquiétude, la solitude, l'amour, le silence, la mémoire, l'humain et la nature, et le pouvoir des mots. Dealing with the synergistic relationship between the world of poetry and the poetry of the world, *Sur les sentiers brulants du vertige* probes the gestures and states of mind posed in and by poetry, and questions, through reflections and refractions, a constellation of themes associated with poetic writing, including anxiety, solitude, love, silence, memory, the human and nature, and the power of words.
(Éditions du Blé, poésie, 21,95 \$ papier, 100 pages, ISBN : 978-2-925452-06-5, disponible en livre numérique)



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Half-Light

Westbound on a Hot Planet

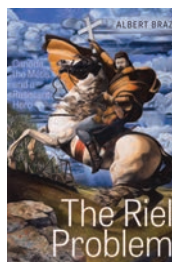
AMY KALER

ISBN 978-1-77212-740-9 | \$26.99 paper

Half-Light offers deep reflections on the meaning of life, middle age, and climate catastrophe.

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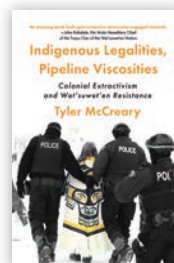


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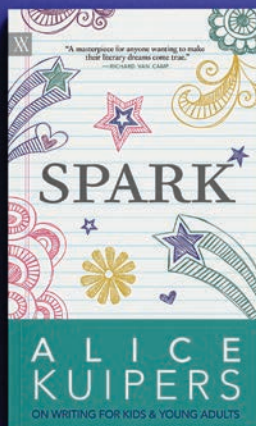
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ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

KEITH CADIEUX is a Winnipeg editor and the author of *Donner Parties and Other Anti-Social Gatherings*, available in the fall of 2024.

ALICIA CHANTAL is the owner of Fresh Look Editing in Edmonton. She can often be found spending time with family, reading, or watching good shows.

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

DAVID JÓN FULLER is a Winnipeg writer and editor, and a lifelong *Daredevil* fan.

MELANIE BRANNAGAN FREDERIKSEN (she/her) lives and writes in Winnipeg, on Treaty 1 Territory. She is the poetry columnist for the *Winnipeg Free Press*. After a career spent in the book world (AELAQ, ABQLA, Chapters, and various school libraries), **MARGARET GOLDIK** is concentrating on reading, drinking tea, and working on her own writing projects.

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

ARIEL GORDON is a Winnipeg/Treaty 1 Territory writer, editor, and enthusiast. Her latest book is the essay collection *Fungal: Foraging in the Urban Forest* (Wolsak & Wynn).

BEV SANDELL GREENBERG is a Winnipeg writer and editor.

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, filmmaker, and musician in Edmonton. Her website is wordspicturesmusic.com.

KYLA NEUFELD is a poet and editor who lives in Winnipeg, Treaty 1 Territory. Her work has appeared in *Vallum*, *The Goose*, and *Geez Magazine*.

AMBER O'REILLY is a multilingual poet, spoken word artist, playwright, and screenwriter. She has two books published with Les Éditions du Blé.

AMBER O'REILLY est une poète, slammeuse, autrice de théâtre et scénariste. Elle a deux livres publiés chez Les Éditions du Blé.

LUIS REIS is a retired high school English language arts and drama teacher. He is also a long-time member and current chair of Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre.

AMANDA SANDERS lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with her husband and their two children.

SARAH SEROY is an Indigenous freelance writer and editor originally from Winnipeg/Treaty 1 Territory. She is currently a graduate student at the University of New Mexico.

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.

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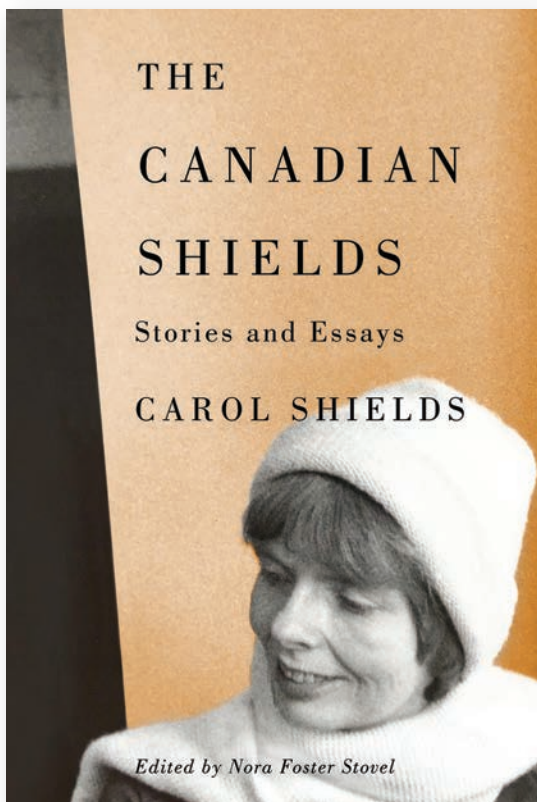


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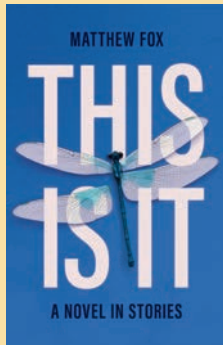
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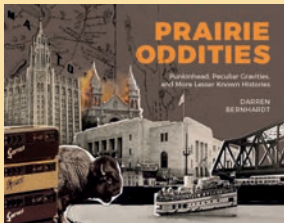
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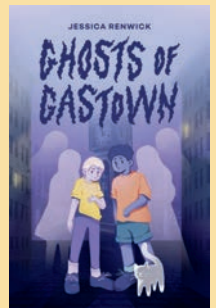
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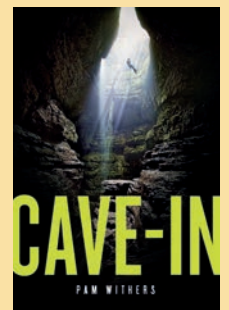
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