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1960 – 2016

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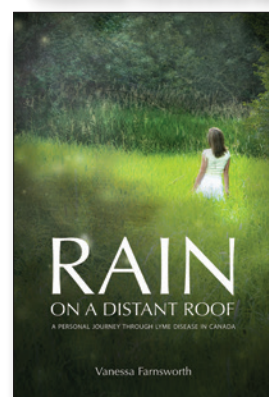
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Remembering Gordon

by Michelle Peters, Executive Director AMBP

Gord Shillingford was one of the first publishers I was introduced to. It was the late 1990s and I was working as a bookseller. One of his plays, *farewel* by Ian Ross, won the Governor-General Award for drama. Gordon was shy and modest, and in our conversations, he quietly explained the work a publisher does to help introduce the world to stories that deserve to be told.

I remember being struck by his energy, his talent for organizing so many little details (he seemed to keep track of them all in his head) and his passion. Being a publisher is not an easy job, but it is an important one. Gordon made a huge contribution to Manitoban and Canadian literature.



LEIF NORMAN

Working for the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers, I came to know Gordon quite well. He was smart and knew a lot about the industry. He served as our president for many years. He had an excitement for the books he produced, and for his colleagues' titles too. I was shocked and saddened when he passed away on January 25, 2016 after a brief illness.

In late January, a celebration of Gordon's life was held at Winnipeg's King's Head Pub. Friends,

family and colleagues gathered to share memories, and many more were there in spirit. The King's Head was one of Gordon's favourite hangouts and often served as his "satellite office." I can see him working away on his laptop or taking meetings at his usual table, which has now been immortalized with a plaque marking it as "Gord's office." He also frequently dropped in to our office, just across the street from the King's Head.

At the celebration, many people praised Gordon's support of poets, playwrights, and Indigenous writers. He was known for his willingness to take risks on books and writers and his instincts were often right, as evidenced by his many Governor General Award nominations and wins. He was remembered for his intellect, generosity, love of music and literature, wry wit, and trademark hoodie!

"Gordon believed I had another book in me, when I thought I had no chapters left," says Jane Harris Zsovan. "He said, 'Don't quit,' So I didn't, and I won't."

Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1960, and despite many years living in Manitoba, still cheered for the Riders. He entered the publishing world in 1986, when he teamed up with a friend to start the Winnipeg drama publishing house Blizzard, using his student loans for start-up money. He left publishing for a short time, and went to work for the Manitoba Arts Council, but returned in the early 1990s, establishing J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing Inc, a respected literary press comprised of several distinct imprints including Scirocco Drama (theatre), The Muses' Company (poetry), Watson & Dwyer (Canadian social history) and J. Gordon Shillingford (politics, religion, true crime, biography).

"Gord was my first publisher. I was so astonished that anyone would take a chance on me that I did not answer the phone readily for months – in case he should call to say he had changed his mind," says Denyse O'Leary. "His best memorial will be: Continue the tradition of listening for the little writer."

Over the years, I would give many of his books as gifts. And now they are the gifts he has left us so that we can reflect upon and see the world in different ways. Thank you for that gift, Gordon. 🍀

GREAT ESCAPES

Author weaves horror, sci-fi and other genres in new novel

by Chadwick Ginther

A good story, says Jack Castle, “is a good story no matter how many genres it encompasses.”

While Castle weaves fantasy, science fiction, and horror elements through his novel *Bedlam Lost*, he loves the escapism of a good thriller, “especially when an author transports me to another world.”

The novel’s protagonists, small town deputy Hank McCarthy and former ballet dancer Emma Hudson, arrive in HavenPort with only fleeting memories of how and why they got there, both fleeing terrors from their past. Unfortunately for them, HavenPort is not what it seems, and has more than its own share of terrors to welcome them – once they arrive, there may be no escape.

BEDLAM LOST

Jack Castle

EDGE

\$19.95 pb, 208 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77053-109-3

When people start dying, and the idyllic mountain community illusion is challenged, Hank and Emma must confront the truth of HavenPort – and their forgotten pasts – if they want to live and learn the truth of who they are and why they are there.

Castle, who has worked all over the north – “from the Aleutian Islands to the Arctic Circle and everywhere in-between” – used his own past for the novel’s inspiration. Over the years, he has worked as a law enforcement officer, a stunt double, a weapons instructor, and a tour guide, among other professions.

“My last job in the Arctic was protecting engineers from polar bears,” he says.

As a young stunt double, Castle met actress June Lockhart, of *Lassie* and *Lost in Space* fame, and

confessed his dream of becoming a writer. Lockhart gave Castle the advice that drove his artistic career when she said, “Go out and live every day like it was your last.”

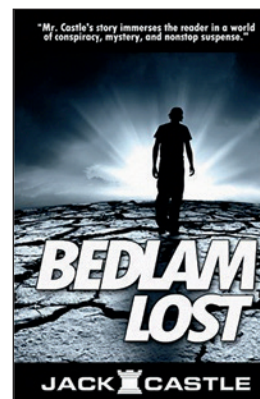
And that was exactly what Castle did. His stunt career lasted over a decade, and he travelled the globe collecting adventures. It is his varied and adventurous life that adds punch to the writing of his science fiction-tinged thriller. “I like to think Mrs. Lockhart would be proud,” he says.

Castle particularly drew on his time in the North to create *Bedlam Lost*’s town of HavenPort. It is within the moldy interiors and flooded basement of the Rakewell Building that, in *Bedlam Lost*’s first intense action scene, Castle reveals HavenPort might not be the sleepy mountain town advertised.

While working law enforcement at a remote port in Alaska, Castle discovered the ruins of a huge self-contained military base – a “City Under One Roof” – built into the side of a mountain after the Second World War. The base, which once included its own hospital, bowling alley, movie theatre, and rifle range, as well as hundreds of rooms for officers and their families, was largely destroyed by the 1964 Alaskan earthquake. It has since been declared off limits due to being unsafe, but Castle has replicated its every dilapidated detail. He says, “I may have taken a peek inside a time or two.”

For those who have never travelled to Alaska, Castle’s description of its majestic mountains, northern lights, wildlife, and seemingly endless expanse may be just the ticket.

“Alaska is often called ‘The Last Frontier,’ ” says Castle. “I can tell you its name is well deserved and the possibilities for stories – endless.” 🍷



FOSSIL FUELS

Alberta badlands the backdrop for short story collection

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

If you're born with the fiction gene, you interpret the world in a different context than others, believes author Martin West.



CRETACEA & OTHER STORIES FROM THE BADLANDS

Martin West

Anvil Press

\$20.00 pb, 192 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77214-049-1

"The only way to get that out is to express it in dramatic and mythic means."

Such is the case in his debut collection of eleven linked short stories, *Cretacea & Other Stories from the Badlands* about the Alberta Badlands and the quirky characters who live there.

Twice shortlisted for the Journey Prize, West was inspired to write this collection because of his fascination with the area. Initially certain oddities drew his attention – the brown brick taverns, prickly pear cactuses, drumlins, and a short wave radio transmission about a Pterosaur Identification Club for Albertans.

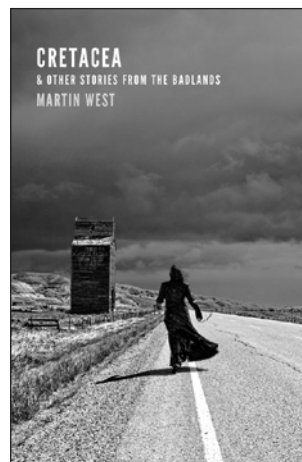
At the same time, "the predilection in this country to de-mythify ourselves" bothered West.

"Everything I was reading always had to happen somewhere else, as if we couldn't have our own fiends and perverts here," he says.

So he set out to write stories about those types of characters in the Badlands, "behind the grain silos, between the hoodoos, and under the blanket of a bizarre social conservatism."

The title of the collection alludes to both the physical and emotional landscape. "Anybody on the highway can see the black iridium line in the Red Deer Valley, supposedly the delineation between the world of monsters and our more rational, human experience," he asserts.

"Cretacea is the place where the best and the rational coexist and lead their daily lives, where the river cuts down through the Badlands into the hearts of the lonely and wears away the pain from the sad."



West enjoys writing about misfits and desperate characters. "Obsession, perversity, and the unremitting ability to find connection in a dissolute world – I admire that in characters. If they aren't ugly, misled, or lying, then they're not living and I'm not interested."

Some of the stories involve young people. "anything more perfect" depicts a young man breaking into an older female neighbour's trailer and finding something shockingly unexpected. In "Dog's Breath," the narrator must decide whether to join a threesome or rescue a beaten dog. The story "In Each Our Cellar" deals with a teenage boy who finds lodging in a Quonset with three psychotic hippies and a cellar full of weed.

Other stories deal with middle-aged protagonists. In the titular story, a writer shoots up the town, then buries his rifle and reads poetry at home. In "My daughter of the dead reads," the narrator helps a man search for his child in the river.

"If they aren't ugly, misled, or lying, then they're not living and I'm not interested."

Throughout the collection, West playfully inserts prehistoric references. These include names of restaurant foods, magazine titles, and even the surname of one of the characters.

In writing this collection, West's biggest challenge was to find a distinct tone for each story, rather than drift into the realm of an episodic novel.

According to West, "*Cretacea* is for readers who stumble through life, curse it, love it, screw it out loud, and want their characters to do the same. The book should make them feel aroused, sad, afraid, or even angry about life, but not bored to tears." 🌿

LIFE AFTER PI

Martel's latest explores suffering, faith

by Margaret Goldik

Yann Martel's *The High Mountains of Portugal*, layered and luminous, begins with a seventeenth-century diary written by a priest ministering to slaves in a Portuguese colony. Martel used the slave trade "as a starting point, just as I used suffering as my starting point in each of the novel's three parts, because I'm interested in what we do with suffering, where we go with it, what tools we have at our disposal to deal with it," he explains.

In 1904 a grieving Tomás uses the diary to search for an artifact made by the priest, which "shines, shrieks, barks, roars," and which could "turn Christianity upside down." Tomás's journey is beset by crises, and ends in Tuizelo where he finds the relic, but at a horrific cost. A boy dies.

THE HIGH MOUNTAINS OF PORTUGAL

Yann Martel
Knopf Canada
\$32.00 hc, 352 pages
ISBN: 978-0-345-80943-8

"It has always struck me how the foundational myth of western civilization has turned on the death of a child, specifically, on God's only son. This, the death of a child, has come to be held as the greatest imaginable possible pain," says Martel.

"I have used it in several of my stories and novels because that's the history of the West, of who we are as a culture."

Fast forward to 1938. A pathologist is about to write a report on a murdered woman. An elderly woman from Tuizelo arrives with the body of

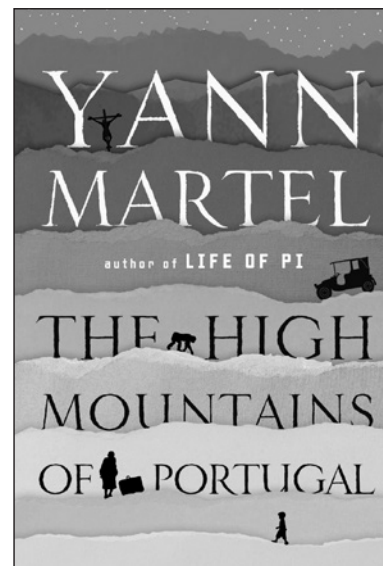
her husband in a suitcase, asking him to discover how her husband had lived. In his body is a chimpanzee cradling a bear cub.

Animals are central to the novel. Martel sees them as good storytelling vehicles. "We project a lot onto animals, so they are both what they are and what we see in them," making them variable and interesting characters.

"Also, precisely because they are a different species, they carry a parcel of unresolvable mystery," he says. This sense of mystery and wonder inspired by animals makes them work well with religious topics.

"And lastly," he says, "I use animals because we share this planet with them, so why shouldn't they also inhabit our novels?"

Fifty years on, the stories resolve. Peter, a widower, moves to Tuizelo, bringing Odo, a chimpanzee rescued from a research facility. Peter and Odo learn to coexist; Peter learns the art of simply being; the mournful eyes that woke the priest to the suffering he was complicit in are replaced by the wise eyes of Odo; the din and destruction of Tomás's journey are replaced by the peace of the countryside and the mysterious boulders. There is, finally, grace.



The success of *Life of Pi* has made it possible for Martel to "retire" from writing if he wished.

"I haven't wished it," he says. "I fully intend to continue writing. In fact, recently, while I was in Amsterdam promoting *The High Mountains of Portugal*, an idea for a new novel popped into my head. I'm already thinking about books I'll read, research I'll conduct, approaches I'll take. Already a cathedral is being built in my mind.

"It's terribly exciting, these early days in the creation of a new story." 🌿

"This sense of mystery and wonder inspired by animals makes them work well with religious topics."

WHAT LIES BENEATH

Anthology takes a look at Winnipeg's dark side

by Ian Goodwillie

They say there's a darkness in all of us, hiding just beneath the surface. And sometimes that darkness is in the world around us. There are people who choose to explore that darkness, like the contributors to *The Shadow over Portage and Main: Weird Fictions*.

Well, in that it specifically pertains to the city of Winnipeg.

This anthology is a fractured take on Winnipeg, and appropriately so. It's dark yet whimsical. Foreboding yet engaging. Surreal yet genuine. This anthology, like the city that inspired it, is a befuddling and inspiring series of contradictions that somehow come together and work.

Dustin Geeraert, one of the editors, speaks very openly about the inspiration Winnipeg affords. "It

occurred to me that there is something strange and eerie about this city, although of course the situation is certainly not without its humour. Winnipeg somehow taught me to appreciate the endless absurdity of life, rather than to resist it."

The key thing to understand about this anthology is that it is not monster fiction. As Geeraert describes the contributions, "No zombies or vampires, but a lot of grief, confusion, and violence, with unexpected moments of humour and some pretty paranoid ideas."

Keith Cadieux, Geeraert's editorial partner, was impressed with how the impact of the setting came through in the submissions even when it wasn't apparent.

"Many of the stories managed to capture a tone or feeling of Winnipeg

without ever explicitly mentioning it as a setting. It's certainly odd, and yet it still works as a Winnipeg-focused anthology," he says.

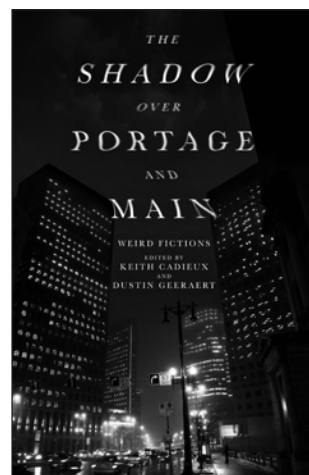
What *The Shadow over Portage and Main* captures is a shared vision of the city it's set in.

"I hope that this collection reaches those who have a similar outlook as myself, Dustin, and all the contributors," says Cadieux.

The outlook that comes through in this collection isn't negative; it's just dark. And highly entertaining. The collection, Cadieux notes, "incorporates the dark, the weird, the horrific, and that is not necessarily a bad or even a bleak thing."

"No zombies or vampires, but a lot of grief, confusion, and violence, with unexpected moments of humour and some pretty paranoid ideas."

Whether the contributor is born and bred in Winnipeg or moved there later in life, a commonality shines through in each story. Winnipeg's architecture and of course its famous winters provided inspiration. The corner of Portage and Main is known for its bitter winds, and darkness and cold add to the atmosphere and often the plot of stories such as "Body without



THE SHADOW OVER PORTAGE AND MAIN

Edited by Keith Cadieux and
Dustin Geeraert
Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains
\$19.95 pb, 286 pages
ISBN: 978-1-927855-36-2

Organs" by David Annandale, "A Winter's Tale" by Daria Patrie, "The Darkness" by Christina Kobun, and "Past the Gates" by Dustin Geeraert.

But what should the reader take away from a book of weird and dark stories about a city buried in the Prairies that endures the most extreme versions of every season? Geeraert sums that up nicely.

"I hope that, at least in some moments in this anthology, we have captured something about Winnipeg – a certain

way of looking at life when you're buried in snow and darkness and searching for pizza and the meaning of life – that Winnipeggers will recognize and understand." 🍷



Political casualties

Alberta politics the backdrop in new thriller

by Yvonne Dick

Mark Lisac has some experience with politics – as a reporter at the Alberta Legislature, and author of two non-fiction books, *Alberta Politics Uncovered* and *The Klein Revolution*. In his new political thriller, *Where the Bodies Lie*, he takes his political knowledge into the fictional realm.

“I had a couple of ideas kicking around in my head, and I decided to write [this novel] partly to see if I could do it,” says Lisac. “I was newly retired, and if I was ever going to try writing a novel it had to be now. My wife was still working, so I had lots of time at home each day where I was alone and it was quiet.

“The purpose of writing it was to entertain myself. I decided if it started feeling like drudgery, then I would stop writing.”

WHERE THE BODIES LIE

Mark Lisac
NeWest Press
\$20.95 pb, 248 pages
ISBN: 978-1-926455-50-1

In *Where the Bodies Lie*, a cabinet minister runs over and kills one of the local constituency executives with his half-ton truck in broad daylight in what is determined to be an accident. Harry Asher, a lawyer and former hockey player with a penchant for visiting gravesites, is asked by his friend the premier to investigate and find out if there is more to this event than meets the eye.

While the pressure builds for Asher to uncover more secrets and untangle a web of corruption before more people get hurt, for Lisac, the writing of the book was quite leisurely – three to four hours a day for five months is a treat when doing what you love.

“It was a pressure-free situation,” Lisac says. “I was not out to create a 40-year career for myself as a novel writer. I was in the position where I could work on it and didn’t have to worry about whether

it was published. In fact, I didn’t really think about getting it published until I was finished writing it.”

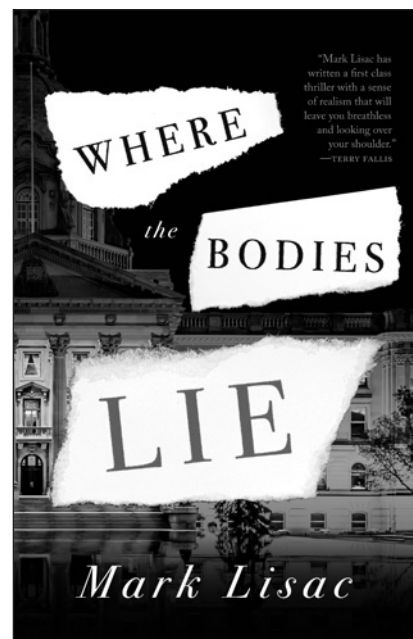
One advantage of writing fiction, according to Lisac, is that he no longer has to sweat over the accuracy of every single fact. In his words, “Now I can say it happened just because I said so!”

In the novel, the deeper Asher digs, the more scandal and dirty deals he finds, involving some of the most prominent citizens in the province, including a beloved former (and now senile) premier. Add a bit of romance, a brutal fight scene, some grave digging, and an unavoidable sense of loss to temper the hope Asher manages to maintain, and the result is an intriguing story of considerable depth.

And just how much did Lisac draw on his knowledge of Alberta politics?

“The book has echoes of Alberta’s history,” he says. “In Alberta in politics, it seems that people are happy to believe the myths or half-facts they have developed over long periods of time when it comes to what Alberta is, or as I call it, the myths that take hold in people and begin to shape reality.

“There have been grandiose dreams of Alberta that have come crashing down.” 🌿



MORE FICTION

As If

Alban Goulden

These speculative stories, in the tradition of fantasy and magic realism, call upon their characters to take action against the industrial and digital mechanisms of our age, which they do, in often surprising ways. (Anvil Press, \$18.00 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-048-4)

At Bay Fiction Annual: Dreams and Nightmares

Edited by Alana Brooker

This is a varied collection of stories told in words, in photographs, and in images and words together. (At Bay Press, \$14.95 pb, 54 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9917610-8-1)

Glory Over Everything: Beyond The Kitchen House

Kathleen Grissom

This suspenseful follow-up to the best-selling *The Kitchen House* continues the story of Jamie Pyke, son of both a slave and master of Tall Oaks, who, in 1830, is passing in Philadelphia as a wealthy white man, only to learn that he must return to North Carolina to help save a servant. (Simon & Schuster, \$32.00 hc, 380 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4767-4844-3)

Hamburger

Daniel Perry

The 12 inventive stories in this collection explore contemporary life in urban centres, and range from dark satirical perspectives to situational ironies, in experiences such as wedding receptions, travel, dating, and disenfranchisement. (Thistledown Press, \$18.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-097-9)

Kalya

Pam Clark

This historical novel deals with Canada's policy of interning Ukrainian settlers during the First World War, as Katja's husband, Wasył, is taken from her and their young children. (Stonehouse Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9866494-1-7)

League of the Star

N. R. Cruse

This historical novel is set at the dawn of the French Revolution. An 18-year-old nobleman,

the Marquis Marcel de la Croix, leads a rebel group called the League of the Star, and later escapes to England. (Stonehouse Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 450 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9866494-2-4)

Life of Pi

Yann Martel

This 15th anniversary edition of the bestselling, award-winning novel features a new cover design by Alexander Boys, one of many fan designs found by the publisher on the Internet. (Vintage Canada, \$21.00 pb, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-0-676-97377-8)

The Light That Remains

Lyse Champagne

The hopes and despair of refugees are the focus of these stories that span the twentieth century and reach into the twenty-first, from a French mountain village in 1942, to Nanjing before the Japanese occupation, to a Cambodian refugee's new life in Canada. (Enfield & Wizenty, \$19.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927855-40-9)

Mary Green

Melanie Kerr

This Regency-era romance tells the story of Mary Green, an orphan and ward of the Hargreaves family, who at age 21, is free to choose her own destiny. (Stonehouse Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9866494-4-8)

Middenrammer

John Bart

This debut novel by a family physician confronts the issue of reproductive choice in the 1970s, in the story of Dr. Brian Davis and midwife Helen "Woodie" Woods. (Freehand Books, \$21.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55481-318-6)

The Naturalist

Alissa York

In 1867, amateur naturalist Walter Ash is about to set off on a long-awaited return expedition to the Amazon when he dies in an accident, obliging his only son, Paul, to take his place. Paul accompanies his grieving stepmother and her young companion, a quiet Quaker named Rachel Weaver, to the fabled River Sea. (Knopf, \$32.00 hc, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3458-1499-9)

No Escape From Greatness

Jeffrey John Eymarie

Gabriel Pegg, destined for big things (in his mind, anyway), finds himself in the small town of Greatness, Manitoba, trapped by a divorce agreement and an 11-year-old daughter named Petunia, who shows him what greatness is really all about. (Turnstone Press, \$19.00 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-537-2)

Perfect World

Ian Colford

Tom Brackett has it all – a good job, a supportive wife, two kids, a mini-van, and a golden retriever. Then his mental instability causes him to commit an act of violence, showing how quickly everything can crumble. (Freehand Books, \$19.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55481-286-8)

Scattered Bones

Maggie Siggins

Based on historical events and set in a fictional version of the real-life town of Pelican Narrows, this story tells of the complicated, fragile, and sometimes fatal relationships between Indigenous people and settlers in 1920s northern Saskatchewan. (Coteau, \$21.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55050-669-3)

Somewhere a Long and Happy Life Probably Awaits You

Jill Sexsmith

A witty, unapologetic, debut story collection that traverses the everyday and the unexpected as it explores the peculiar places we look for validation and purpose, and how strangely impervious to their desperate circumstances people can be. (ARP, \$18.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-894037-71-6)

The Three Sisters Bar and Hotel

Katherine Govier

Govier explores her Alberta roots in this sprawling family saga, moving between a contemporary story of three sisters who are given a hotel in their mountainside hometown, and their family history, back to 1911, when a scientist and his family hunt fossils in the Rockies and mysteriously disappear. (HarperCollins, \$22.99 pb, 480 pages, ISBN: 978-1-44343-664-9)

TO AND FROM NOWHERE: A BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Hedy Leonara Martens

This conclusion to *Favoured Among Women* continues the story of Greta and her family as they struggle to exist in the Soviet Union from 1941 to 1976.

(CMU Press, \$27.00 pb, 504 pages, ISBN: 978-0-920718-97-1)

VISITING FELLOW

Dave Williamson

Wally, a history professor at the University of Manitoba, is trying to get his life, and relationships, in order before he goes to be a visiting fellow at the University of Tasmania for two months. These relationships are with his ex-wife, Marjorie, his teenaged son, Geordie, and his new love interest, Carolyn. (Turnstone Press, \$19.00 pb, 366 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-576-1)

WHITE ELEPHANT

Catherine Cooper

This debut novel presents an unflinching portrait of a family, as the Berringers – husband, wife, and teenage son – try to deal with their new life in Sierra Leone.

(Freehand Books, \$21.95 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55481-303-2)

FANTASY & SCI-FI**CHILDREN OF EARTH AND SKY**

Guy Gavriel Kay

Kay's latest brings together a range of characters – Faleri, an ambassador to Emperor Rodolfo; Danica, a young female raider/pirate; Marin, a merchant's son; Pero, a young artist sent to spy on the Grand Khalif; Leonara, another spy, posing as a doctor's wife; and Damaz, a young trainee in the khalif's army. (Penguin, \$34.00 hc, 448 pages, ISBN: 978-0-6700-6839-5)

EUROPA JOURNAL

Jack Castle

In 2168, a five-sided pyramid is discovered on the ocean floor of Jupiter's icy moon, and in it a team of astronauts find the body of a dead pilot who had vanished in the Bermuda Triangle in 1945, along with the journal that tells his story – and much more.

(EDGE, \$14.95 pb, 284 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-106-2)

QUANTUM NIGHT

Robert J. Sawyer

This novel examines the phenomenon of psychopathy, as Jim Marchuk, a psychology professor at the University of Manitoba,

and Kayla Huron, a quantum physicist at a synchrotron at the University of Saskatchewan, try to save the world by manipulating consciousness and conscience. (Viking, \$30.00 hc, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-0-670-06578-3)

SUPERHERO UNIVERSE: TESSERACTS NINETEEN

Edited by Claude Lalumière and Mark

Shainblum

These stories (and one poem) "tap into whole universes of superhero tropes, subgenres, and archetypes," as co-editor Lalumière says in the introduction.

(EDGE, \$15.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-770530-87-4)

MYSTERY AND THRILLER**COURSE CORRECTION**

Douglas Morrison

In this debut thriller, Michael's trip to Greece changes course when the plane is hijacked and redirected to Ukraine. Together with a fellow passenger, Dmitri, Michael finds himself on the run from the Mafia in an unfamiliar country where no one, not even Dmitri, can be trusted.

(Stonehouse Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9866494-0-0)

TAKE A STEP TOWARD
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Indigenous Writes

A GUIDE TO FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT ISSUES IN CANADA

BY CHELSEA VOWEL



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"IT CAN START WITH A KNOCK ON THE DOOR ONE MORNING.

IT IS THE LOCAL INDIAN AGENT, OR THE PARISH PRIEST,
OR, PERHAPS, A MOUNTED POLICE OFFICER."

—TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA

A *Knock on the Door* gathers material from the reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to present the essential history and legacy of residential schools and inform the journey to reconciliation that Canadians are now embarked upon.

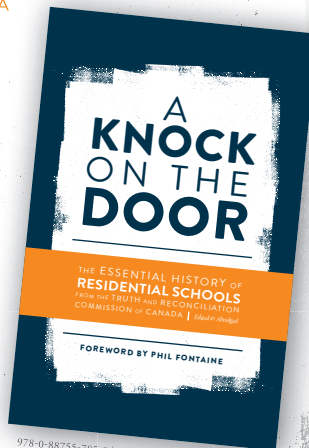
"THE ATTEMPT TO TRANSFORM US FAILED.
THE TRUE LEGACY OF THE SURVIVORS, THEN,
WILL BE THE TRANSFORMATION OF CANADA."

— PHIL FONTAINE, FROM THE FOREWORD

UMP
University of Manitoba Press

National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Published in collaboration with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



978-0-88755-785-9 | 5.5" X 8.5" | 296 PP | \$17.95



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UMP



NEW FALL TITLES *from* NEWEST PRESS



LOST ANIMAL CLUB

by KEVIN A. COUTURE

\$19.95 978-1-926455-66-2

In *Lost Animal Club*, the veneer of humanness gets stretched thin and often cracks as a menagerie of burdened characters reveal their beast-like traits.

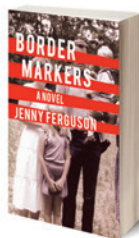


PAPER TEETH

by LAURALYN CHOW

\$19.95 978-1-926455-63-1

The interconnected stories found in Lauralyn Chow's *Paper Teeth* are fun, funny, and heart-warming journeys about the pursuit of identity and the crafting of home.

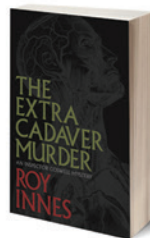


BORDER MARKERS

by JENNY FERGUSON

\$15.95 978-1-926455-69-3

After the accidental death of a teenaged friend, the Lansing family has split along fault lines previously hidden under a patina of suburban banality.

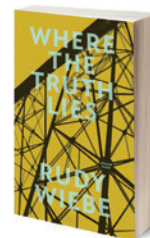


THE EXTRA CADAVER MURDER

by ROY INNES

\$16.95 978-1-926455-72-3

A university professor is killed and his corpse is revealed to a first year anatomy class in spectacular fashion—nude on a slab alongside shrouded medical cadavers.



WHERE THE TRUTH LIES

by RUDY WIEBE

\$24.95 978-1-926455-75-4

Where The Truth Lies collects forty years of essays and speeches that award-winning author Rudy Wiebe has crafted over the course of his fruitful career.

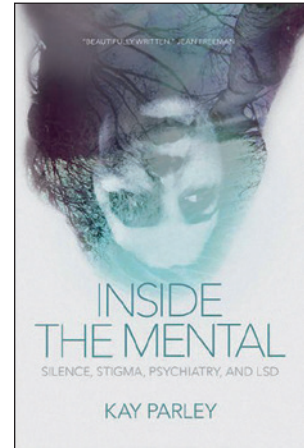
Online at WWW.NEWESTPRESS.COM

Of sound mind

An inside look at the Weyburn Mental Hospital

by Paula E. Kirman

Mental illness is often stigmatized in our society, as are those who live with it. This stigmatization was even more prevalent in the 1940s and '50s, the era when writer Kay Parley had first-hand experience with the Weyburn Mental Hospital in Saskatchewan. In her latest book, *Inside "The Mental": Silence, Stigma, Psychiatry, and LSD*, she reflects upon her time there, as both a patient and as a psychiatric nurse in training, including her experiences undergoing experimental, often ground-breaking therapies, such as the use of LSD.



INSIDE "THE MENTAL": *Silence, Stigma, Psychiatry, and LSD*

Kay Parley
University of Regina Press
\$24.95 hc, 190 pages
ISBN: 978-0-88977-411-7

Writing about her own experiences, especially those pertaining to her mental health, is something that comes naturally to Parley, who is now in her 90s.

"I simply write when something inside me insists on being written," she explains. "I enjoy writing about true experiences more than fiction. In 2007, I self-published *Lady with a Lantern* about leading a patients' therapy group when I was training as a psychiatric nurse. So, the decision to write this one was really made by University of Regina Press, who decided they'd like to use some of that book and get me to expand on it."

Parley hopes readers "might gain more understanding of what was going on in psychiatry in Saskatchewan in the 1950s and 1960s, when our province was a leader in advanced research and therapies." The Weyburn hospital, while over capacity and not perfect, was known for its cutting-edge therapies and research into new medications.

Inside "The Mental" is aimed more at a general readership than those experiencing mental illness since, as Parley says of the latter, "they already know all about it." Readers will learn how Parley

put her own experiences of mental illness to use as she participated in treatments and experiments with great sensitivity and insight.

She adds, "I also wanted therapists in the field today to stop and ask whether they might reconsider some of the approaches we used in the '50s."

When asked what is needed for mental health patients today, she emphasizes, "We need long-term care for a lot of patients and it needs to be free. We need a real community hospital again, and we need psychiatrists."

Parley began to publish in 1951, and her first stories were about life in the mental hospital when she was a patient. Writing, for her, is a form of therapy in itself.

"I have manic-depressive psychosis and experienced a breakdown every six years," she explains. "I only had to have treatment once, because I 'wrote myself well.' I wrote approximately 7000 pages about the experiences before getting the process organized enough to let me write anything worthwhile."

As a result, Parley has been incredibly prolific. "I've written 27 books, not all about psychiatry, and published four, if I count a community history on the Net."

And how long does it take her to write a book?

"A lifetime," she says. "The actual writing? Not long. I type fast." 🌿

"We need long-term care for a lot of patients and it needs to be free."

TAKING ACTION

Local initiatives have global impact

by Paula E. Kirman

Every community has its activists who work together to try to improve society, at the very least on a local level. And every so often, local action can have global impacts. Citizens who take collaborative action, like starting local non-profit organizations, housing co-operatives, or community-based social services, are participating in what is called the “social economy.”

Scaling Up: The Convergence of Social Economy and Sustainability, edited by Mike Gismondi, Sean Connelly, Mary Beckie, Sean Markey, and Mark Roseland, is an investigation into different innovative social economies in British Columbia and Alberta that have had powerful impacts. All of the case studies in the book, which include affordable housing initiatives, local credit unions, and farmers’ markets, demonstrate a commitment to the outcomes of social justice, financial self-sufficiency, and environmental sustainability.

“We remain inspired by the many people in western Canada deeply committed to combining ecological and social justice concerns, while making change in Canadian society and globally,” says Mike Gismondi, lead editor of the book, describing *Scaling Up*’s genesis.

“We remain inspired by the many people in western Canada deeply committed to combining ecological and social justice concerns.”

“In the book we describe a convergence between social economics and sustainability,” Gismondi explains. “We call this convergence ‘social economizing sustainability,’ and we explore ways and means to spread or scale up these pockets of resistance into true alternatives, given the pressures of capitalism.”

Gismondi, a professor of sociology and global studies in the Centre for Social Sciences at Athabasca University as well as a teacher in the Master of Arts–Integrated Studies program,

SCALING UP:

The Convergence of Social Economy and Sustainability

Edited by Mike Gismondi, Sean Connelly, Mary Beckie, Sean Markey, and Mark Roseland
University of Athabasca Press

\$34.95 pb, 400 pages
with b/w figures, tables
ISBN: 978-1-77199-021-9

further explains that *Scaling Up* “introduces a range of existing projects and people who are making positive change: bike and car co-ops addressing sustainable transportation and social inequality; local food initiatives providing food security and community resilience; coalitions of housing co-ops, credit unions, and municipalities using land trusts to build attainable housing for the poor; heritage building activists seeking ways to shelter not-for-profit organizations; First Nations communities that are reshaping the arts, tourism, and resources in positive ways; and community-owned and -controlled low carbon green energy projects.”

Work on the book began in 2006, with a series of working papers, webinars, and public talks spanning a decade. While definitely academic in scope and presentation, *Scaling Up* is written to reach not only academics in the field, but also students who are part of the wider community.

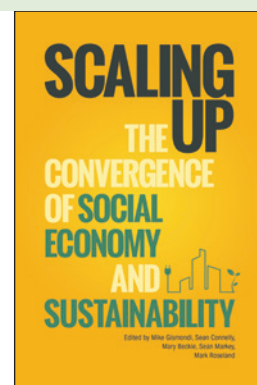
“We are trying to advance discussions among academics and practitioners in the wider co-operative, social economy, commons, and sustainability movements, as well as to provoke those researchers exploring transitions to sustainability,” Gismondi says.

“Finally, we find that today’s finest students have a foot in both worlds, the university and the community. We hope this book will help them along the pathway of public scholarship.”

Most of all, Gismondi hopes that *Scaling Up* achieves what it documents in the book: positive social change.

“First of all, hope for another future,” he says of what he would like readers to gain from the book.

“Second, the importance of some tried and true forms of democratic ownership, decision making, and politics that are key to a just transition to sustainability.” 🌱



Wrestling Western wrestling

Book examines Manitoba's wrestling history

by Margaret Anne Fehr

Dr. C. Nathan Hatton, adjunct professor of history at Lakehead University, freely admits that he has throughout his life been interested in wrestling in its many forms. “Despite being unable to pursue them to the extent I desired, my passion for them never diminished,” he says.

Instead, Hatton has unleashed his fervour for the sport by writing *Thrashing Seasons: Sporting Culture in Manitoba and the Genesis of Prairie Wrestling*, the first detailed social history of early wrestling in Canada.

“My interest in writing *Thrashing Seasons* stemmed from the awareness that very few academic historians had given dedicated attention to studying the sport in Canada. This is despite the fact that you will probably find no sport with a longer history in our country, nor will you find a sport that has been practised by a wider array of peoples comprising our Canadian mosaic.”



Hatton's intent was to take readers back to a time when the line between sport and sports entertainment was far more blurred. He traces wrestling history to the advent of “modern” professional wrestling and how Prairie society grew and evolved up to the end of the western settlement era.

Hatton recalls numerous challenges in the research process, which he started in the fall of 2008. “First of all, there was very little secondary literature related to wrestling in the region that I could draw on. While I could find plenty of records related to wrestling matches, matters such as who won, and what hold was used to win, these facts were completely peripheral to what I was looking at.”

Rather, Hatton wanted to know what segments of society participated in wrestling, who was interested in the sport in general, and what the sport meant to people. “I wanted to situate wrestling in the larger context of life on the Prairies.”

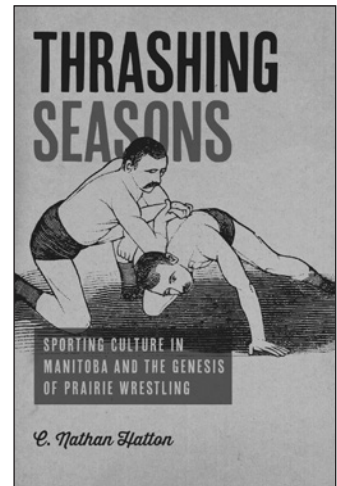
He describes another research wrinkle: “Unlike hockey, where we see league schedules year after year, wrestling was a sport whose popularity ebbed and flowed. Weeks, months, or years might pass between significant wrestling contests. Particularly in regards to the period before World War I, very little research had been done on the sport in Manitoba, so long periods of meticulous digging did not always turn up results.”

Hatton expects that *Thrashing Seasons* will be of interest to varied audiences. “Sport historians will enjoy the book because it advances critical themes, among them the impact of commercialization in Canada, the growth of organized sporting institutions, gender construction through sport, and evolving ideas around professionalism and amateurism.

“Immigration historians will likely be interested, since the book examines a neglected aspect of the immigrant experience: their contributions to the larger sporting culture during the early twentieth century, as well as the purposes that sport served within their own communities.”

Hatton sees labour historians finding many new revelations in the work because of the examination given to the athletic programs of the Winnipeg-based One Big Union (OBU) in the decade following the General Strike.

“Above all,” he says, “I feel that anyone who enjoys a fun story will also enjoy this book. Wrestling is a sport infused with colourful, larger-than-life characters, and this book tells their stories for the first time.”



THRASHING SEASONS: *Sporting Culture in Manitoba and the Genesis of Prairie Wrestling*

C. Nathan Hatton
University of
Manitoba Press
\$27.95 pb, 336 pages
with photos,
bibliography, index
ISBN: 978-0-88755-800-9

Race relations

Canada's "Rosa Parks" the subject of new book

by Laura Kupcis

Nine years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white passenger on a city bus, a Canadian, Viola Desmond, went to see a movie in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and was arrested for sitting in the whites-only section of a racially segregated theatre.

Her act of courage received national coverage at the time, but it soon receded from public consciousness, notes Dr. Graham Reynolds, who wrote – with the help of Desmond's youngest sister, Wanda Robson – *Viola Desmond's Canada: A History of Blacks and Racial Segregation in the Promised Land*.

VIOLA DESMOND'S CANADA:

A History of Blacks and Racial Segregation in the Promised Land

Graham Reynolds,
with Wanda Robson
Fernwood Publishing
\$30.00 pb, 200 pages
ISBN: 978-1-55266-837-5

"There are many important, but little-known, heroes who fought for racial equality in Canada."

"As an historian who specializes in the history of race relations, I understood that the Viola Desmond story was a uniquely Canadian story of courage in the long and difficult struggle to achieve racial equality," Reynolds says.

"It seems to be unfortunate, but true, that Canadians have a collective amnesia about the history of race relations and the existence of racism in our country."

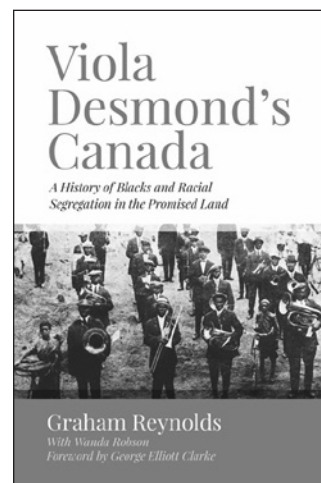
Rosa Parks's protest sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, a catalyst for the American civil rights movement and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In Canada, the circumstances were far less dramatic. We did not have a large Black population and we did not have the violent enforcement of Jim Crow laws, Reynolds says. Racial segregation in Canada followed a localized uneven pattern of discrimination, which was quietly, but vigorously, enforced through local custom.

"[The narrative of race] begins with the practice of slavery under French and British rule and extends to the movement to abolish slavery and the Underground Railroad in the nineteenth century to the rise of Jim Crow-style racial segregation and the civil rights movements in the twentieth century," Reynolds says.

In Nova Scotia, the Viola Desmond incident led to the passage of legislation that banned discrimination in public places. Similar legislation was passed in other provinces and by the mid-1960s nearly all provinces had passed comprehensive human rights legislation.

"There are many important, but little-known, heroes who fought for



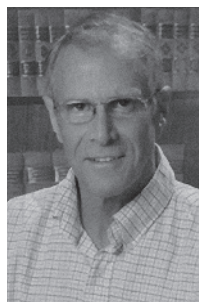
racial equality in Canada," Reynolds says. "I hope my book will enlighten readers about this important aspect of Canadian history."

In addition to the narrative history, *Viola Desmond's Canada* also includes a documentary history of race relations, with documents such as the inventory of a freed female slave's estate in 1757, immigration papers from early in the twentieth century, and archival photographs, all telling their own stories.

Reynolds wants readers to know the Viola Desmond story and to understand the continuity of Black experience in Canada from the time slavery existed to the present day.

"This history chronicles a major theme in Canadian history, which involves the ongoing tension between the ideals and aspirations of freedom and the reality of oppression, inequality, and discrimination," he says.

"Having an understanding of the struggle to overcome the racism and other injustices of the past will help make Canada of the future a more tolerant and just society." 🌿



Free flow

Winnipeg's aqueduct celebrated and controversial

by Liz Katynski

Winnipeg's water comes from Shoal Lake, via the Winnipeg Aqueduct built in 1919. How that came to be is both a celebrated and a controversial story.

In *Aqueduct: Colonialism, Resources, and the Histories We Remember*, Adele Perry tells that story of innovation and settler colonialism.

"A lot of people in Winnipeg are generally aware of where the water comes from, but they may not know the whole story," says the University of Manitoba history professor and historian. "As a history teacher, I am trying to bring light to it, and engage people. It's an important story."

The history of the Aqueduct is more complex than is generally acknowledged, involving not only the settler concerns of the city of Winnipeg, but also profound dispossession of land and water for the Indigenous people affected.

AQUEDUCT:

Colonialism, Resources and the Histories We Remember

Adele Perry

ARP Books

\$14.95 pb, 104 pages

ISBN: 978-1-894037-69-3

"The development of a municipal water supply was a big deal. I hope people who read the book get a good sense of the city's history, the ways society is built through complicated histories, with all sorts of losses to Aboriginal people, and where urban people fit in," says Perry. "I am thinking critically about what it means to be a settler in Manitoba."

In 1914, part of the land of the Shoal Lake 40 Reserve was purchased in the interest of public works, without band approval, by invoking an infrequently used clause of the *Indian Act*.

Winnipeg's mayor travelled all the way to Ottawa to secure the deal. The cost of the project was estimated at \$13 million but it finally cost \$17 million, an enormous investment at the time. It was made a

priority and built during the First World War.

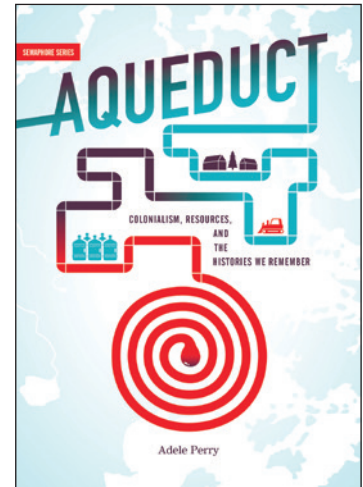
"In Winnipeg, poor sanitation was a threat to public health. The Aqueduct solved the problem. But from 1896 to 1911, 20 percent of residential land was lost. The Aqueduct was an important symbol of local genius and forward thinking, but it was part of a wider pattern. The Indian community was not even mentioned. The area was said to be uninhabited."

The project employed up to 2500 men at a time of labour shortages and unrest. Many young men and recent immigrants worked on building a dyke and a canal that isolated the community of Shoal Lake 40, turning it into an artificial island with no emergency services, sewage treatment, or clean drinking water.

The story of the Aqueduct tells of a marvel of engineering and of a loss of land and access that continues to affect people today.

As a gesture toward recognizing the injustice of the colonialism still being practised, royalties from the sale of this book will be donated to Shoal Lake 40 First Nation's Freedom Road Fund, which will contribute to the construction of a 27-kilometre road to connect Shoal Lake 40 First Nation to the Trans-Canada Highway.

"The book brings to light some wider inequities," says Perry. "The affected community has been working hard for a very long time. I am interested in doing my small part to make the case that I can." 🌿



"I am thinking critically about what it means to be a settler in Manitoba."

MORE NON-FICTION

ART & ARCHITECTURE

GEORGE BAXTER, MASTER COLOUR PRINTER: OIL-COLOUR PRINTS FROM THE DONALD AND BARBARA CAMERON COLLECTION

Merrill Distad

This collection of prints by George Baxter (1804–1867), a pioneer in the art of colour printing who brought vivid artworks within financial reach of almost everyone, was exhibited by the Bruce Peel Special Collections & Archives.

(University of Alberta Press, \$15.00 pb, 16 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55195-352-6)

PAULINE BOUTAL: AN ARTIST'S DESTINY

Louise Duguay, translated by S. E. Stewart
This English translation of the award-winning biography introduces Boutal, the influential Breton-born, Manitoba-based visual artist, illustrator, and artistic director of the Cercle Molière Theatre, to a new audience.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$49.95 hc, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-0-8755-794-1)

RE/IMAGINING WINNIPEG

Edited by Lawrence Bird and Sharon Wohl
Architects were invited to forums on the themes of fantastical, transport, and hub, where they were to propose ideas, without concerns about cost or rules, for making Winnipeg a better city.

(StorefrontMB Architecture/Design/Urbanism, \$20.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9937800-2-8)

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

DEAN GUNNARSON: THE MAKING OF AN ESCAPE ARTIST

Carolyn Gray

This biography of the world-renowned escapologist begins with his first and greatest escape, surviving juvenile leukemia. In the wake of his illness, the Houdini-obsessed Gunnarson meets another boy of the cancer ward, and the two go on a quest for real, true magic.

(Great Plains, \$29.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927855-35-5)

FIFTY PERCENT OF MOUNTAINEERING IS UPHILL: THE LIFE OF CANADIAN MOUNTAIN RESCUE PIONEER WILLI PFISTERER

Susanna Pfisterer

The true story of Jasper's Willi Pfister, a legend in the field of mountaineering and safety in the Rocky Mountains, told by his daughter, is an engaging and educational adventure story, covering everything from avalanches in the Northern Parks to guiding prime ministers.

(NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926455-60-0)

I, BIFICUS: A MEMOIR

Bif Naked

This memoir from one of Canada's most original musical artists is candid and inspiring, telling of her early years as a wild child, her touring years with punk bands, and her struggle with breast cancer – more than anything, this is the story of a survivor.

(HarperCollins, \$32.99 hc, 284 pages, ISBN: 978-1-44341-972-7)

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CRETACEA
4 OTHER STORIES FROM THE BADLANDS
MARTIN WEST

CRETACEA
& Other Stories from the Badlands
by MARTIN WEST

In this debut collection of stories, two-time Journey Prize finalist Martin West unearths a stratum of Alberta that we rarely imagine.

Cretacea & Other Stories from the Badlands is not the world of oil and hockey and wheat, but of people at night, living alternate lives, wearing clothes that usually remain hidden in the depths of closets. When they emerge from these closets wearing these clothes, these shopkeepers, lawyers, and students do things to themselves and each other that it would take Freud to explicate.

Clear, comic, and concrete these stories are as sharp as a pick and shovel as they excavate the coulees of the soul.

ISBN: 978-1-77214-049-1 • \$20 • 174 pp.

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PRESS

**LEAVING IRAN: BETWEEN MIGRATION
AND EXILE**

Farideh Goldin

This intimate portrait combines the author's experience as an Iranian-born Jew in the United States with her father's memoir as a refugee in Israel after being forced to flee in February 1979 as political unrest intensified in Iran.

(Athabasca University Press, \$22.95 pb, 302 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77199-137-7)

**REBEL WITH A CAUSE: THE DOC
NIKAIDO STORY**

Bretton Loney

This is the account of Harry Nikaido, a doctor with a successful practice in small-town Alberta who adamantly protested against the Canadian government after he and his family were forcibly resettled with thousands of other Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War.

(FriesenPress, \$32.50 pb, 104 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-1-4602-6915-2)

**THE SURPRISING LIVES OF SMALL-TOWN
DOCTORS: PRACTISING MEDICINE IN
RURAL CANADA**

Paul Dhillon

This collection of first-person narratives from doctors in every part of rural Canada details the fears, failures, and challenges of providing health care in some of the furthest reaches in the country, where the need for doctors is the greatest.

(University of Regina Press, \$21.95 pb, 238 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-431-5)

**THE TEACHER AND THE SUPERINTENDENT:
NATIVE SCHOOLING AND THE ALASKAN
INTERIOR, 1904-1918**

Compiled and annotated by
George E. Boulter II and Barbara
Grigor-Taylor

This collection of letters between a school superintendent on the Upper Yukon and a transplanted Southern belle chronicles the conflict between church and government and provides a first-hand perspective of the earnest but misguided efforts of both institutions to assimilate Alaska Natives into American life.

(Athabasca University Press, \$39.95 pb, 438 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-927356-50-0)

**WHITE ESKIMO: KNUD RASMUSSEN'S FEARLESS
JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF THE ARCTIC**

Stephen R. Bown

This is the first full-scale biography of the Danish-Greenlander visionary explorer and ethnographer who unveiled the culture, language, and life of the Arctic in his explorations, including a three-year, 20,000-mile dog-sled journey.

(Douglas & McIntyre, \$34.95 hc, 344 pages, with photos, maps, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77162-001-7)

FOOD

**FOOD ARTISANS OF THE OKANAGAN: YOUR
GUIDE TO THE BEST LOCALLY CRAFTED FARE**
Jennifer Cockrall-King

This collection of profiles of Okanagan farmers, market gardeners, bakers, beekeepers, cheesemakers, and other producers of craft food and drink, includes contact information to enable locals and tourists alike to visit farmgate shops.

(Touchwood Editions, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77151-153-7)

**OUT OF THE ORCHARD: RECIPES FOR FRESH
FRUIT FROM THE SUNNY OKANAGAN**

Julie Van Rosendaal

This collection of contemporary recipes featuring tree fruit includes classic pies, cakes, preserves, and cobblers, as well as less conventional recipes for fruit in soups, salads, and even main dishes.

(Touchwood Editions, \$29.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77151-132-2)

**A TASTE OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES
COOKBOOK**

Myriam Leighton and Chip Olver

This collection of mouth-watering recipes from some of the best restaurants in Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise, Waterton, and Canmore, along with selections from backcountry resorts throughout the Canadian Rockies, includes mountain photographs by Douglas Leighton.

(Touchwood Editions, \$14.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77151-181-0)

GAMES

O CANADA CROSSWORDS: BOOK 16

Gwen Sjogren

The latest installment of the bestselling series includes 100 new crossword puzzles featuring an array of Canadiana, pop culture, and

whimsical wordplay, and over 11,000 clues on topics like hockey, music, film, and place names.

(Nightwood Editions, \$13.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-312-3)

GENERAL

**ACHIEVING LONGEVITY: HOW GREAT FIRMS
PROSPER THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL
THINKING**

Jim Dewald

This book provides the framework for introducing the tools necessary to foster entrepreneurial thinking as well as advice on how to overcome common obstacles to corporate entrepreneurship, and offers examples on how to combine the strengths of an established firm with the innovative thinking of a start-up venture.

(University of Toronto Press, \$32.95 hc, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4426-5029-9)

CAROL SHIELDS AND THE WRITER-CRITIC

Brenda Beckman-Long

This reappraisal of Shields's work, with original archival research and readings of her fiction and criticism, attests to her preoccupation with the changing efforts of waves of feminist activism and writing. (University of Toronto Press, 192 pages, \$65.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-4570-7; \$29.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4426-1395-9)

COLD FIRE: KENNEDY'S NORTHERN FRONT

John Boyko

The story of how US President John F. Kennedy's confrontations with the Soviet Union coloured his relationships with two different Canadian leaders: the unapologetic nationalist John Diefenbaker, and Lester Pearson.

(Knopf Canada, \$35.00 hc, 374 pages, ISBN: 978-0-345-80893-6)

**COUNTERBLASTING CANADA: MARSHALL
MC LUHAN, WYNDHAM LEWIS, WILFRED
WATSON, AND SHEILA WATSON**

Edited by Gregory Betts, Paul Hjartarson, and Kristine Smitka

This collection of essays traces the influence of Vorticism, the WWI-era art movement led by Ezra Pound and Wyndham Lewis, on McLuhan, Canadian modernism and postwar literary culture.

(University of Alberta Press, \$49.95 pb, 376 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-037-0)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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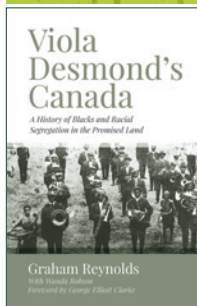
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Greg Marquis

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FERNWOOD
PUBLISHING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

THE DIGITAL NEXUS: IDENTITY, AGENCY, AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Edited by Raphael Foshay

This collection of essays provides an analysis of the way new media technologies change the workings of social engagement for personal expression, social interaction, and political engagement, and of the challenges that ubiquitous connectivity delivers to both public and private life.

(Athabasca University Press, \$34.95 pb,
424 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-129-2)

DINOSAURS OF THE DEEP: DISCOVER PREHISTORIC MARINE LIFE

Larry Verstraete, illustrated by Julius Csotonyi

This book sheds light on the diversity of prehistoric aquatic creatures such as mosasaurs and plesiosaurs, presenting the fossils of the Western Interior Seaway.

(Turnstone Press, \$25.00 hc, 150 pages,
ISBN: 978-0-88801-573-0)

ECONOMICS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Robert Chernomas and Ian Hudson

This accessible summary of the latest debates in economics takes on what is missing from the mainstream economics, why the discipline matters, and how it can better address the key concerns of our era.

(University of Toronto Press, 192 pages, \$55.00
hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-4942-2; \$24.95 pb,
ISBN: 978-1-4426-2677-5)

EMERGENCE AND INNOVATION IN DIGITAL LEARNING: FOUNDATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Edited by George Veletsianos

This collection provides a one-stop site for work on emergent approaches to digital learning, with investigations on the impact of issues such as openness, analytics, and social media, for researchers and practitioners.

(Athabasca University Press, \$39.95 pb,
324 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-149-0)

FAMILIAR AND FOREIGN: IDENTITY IN IRANIAN FILM AND LITERATURE

Edited by Manijeh Mannani and
Veronica Thompson

This collection of essays on Iranian poetry, novels, memoir, and film challenges neocolonialist stereotypes and essentialist perceptions while revealing the limitations of collective identity as it has been configured within and outside of Iran.

(Athabasca University Press, \$39.95 pb,
340 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927356-86-9)

**THE FATE OF LABOUR SOCIALISM:
THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH
FEDERATION AND THE DREAM OF A
WORKING-CLASS FUTURE**

James Naylor

This fundamental re-examination of the CCF and Canadian working-class politics suggests that the party was created by working-class activists steeped in Marxist ideology who sought to create a movement that would be loyal to its socialist principles and appealing to the wider electorate.

(University of Toronto Press, 464 pages, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-3112-0; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4426-2909-7)

FIRST PERSON PLURAL

George Melnyk, foreword by Aritha van Herk

In these essays, Melnyk invites readers to encounter him as a plurality of persons, by looking at how we interact with images of ourselves, with people we know, and with celebrities we have never met, using his response to photographs, paintings, prints, and films.

(Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 246 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927823-42-2)

**FIRST WORLD PETRO-POLITICS: THE POLITICAL
ECOLOGY AND GOVERNANCE OF ALBERTA**

Edited by Laurie E. Adkin

This wide-ranging and richly documented study of Alberta's political ecology examines a first world petro-state facing related social, ecological, and economic crises in the context of recent critical work on fossil capitalism, and offers a discussion of policy alternatives. (University of Toronto Press, 592 pages, \$95.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-4419-9; \$48.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4426-1258-7)

**GOD'S PROVINCE: EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY,
POLITICAL THOUGHT, AND CONSERVATISM
IN ALBERTA**

Clark Banack

This book is a fusion of nearly a century of Alberta political, religious, and intellectual history, with emphasis on political leaders from Henry Wise Wood and "Bible Bill" Aberhart, to Ernest and Preston Manning. (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$34.95 hc, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7735-4714-8)

**THE GREAT CANADIAN PRAIRIES BUCKET LIST:
ONE-OF-A-KIND TRAVEL EXPERIENCES**

Robin Esrock

This collection includes destinations and activities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan,

from polar bear watching along the Hudson Bay or a horse ride through herds of free-roaming bison, to architectural mysteries in Winnipeg or floating in "Canada's Dead Sea." Bundled with an up-to-date website. (Dundurn, \$19.99 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-45973-049-6)

HOLY WAR: COWBOYS, INDIANS, AND 9/11s

Mark Cronlund Anderson

This examination of presidential speeches, news reports, and television and film uncovers how the United States reverts to its creation mythology of "fighting Indians" to justify American imperialism, from the Mexican-American War to the invasion of Iraq. (University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 340 pages, with b/w images, ISBN: 978-0-88977-414-8)

**HORSE-AND-BUGGY GENIUS: LISTENING TO
MENNONITES CONTEST THE MODERN WORLD**

Royden Loewen

This study of the ways many Mennonites have resisted aspects of modernization, including technology, upward mobility, and consumption, is based on recent interviews with traditionalist Mennonites across the Americas. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-798-9)

HOW CANADIANS COMMUNICATE V: SPORTS

Edited by David Taras and Christopher Waddell

Writing from a variety of perspectives, the contributors to this collection set out to explore the impact of the media on our reception of and attitudes to sports, in order to prompt discussion on why sports matter and how they contribute to the construction of Canadian identity. (Athabasca University Press, \$39.95 pb, 460 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-007-3)

**HOW CANADIANS COMMUNICATE VI:
FOOD PROMOTION, CONSUMPTION,
AND CONTROVERSY**

Edited by Charlene Elliott

This is a thought-provoking look at food as a system of communication through which Canadians articulate cultural identity, personal values, and social class, through such phenomena as the locavore movement, food banks, fears about food safety, and more. (Athabasca University Press, \$34.95 pb, 380 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-025-7)

**LEARNING IN VIRTUAL WORLDS: RESEARCH
AND APPLICATIONS**

Edited by Sue Gregory, Mark J. W. Lee, Barney Dalgarno, and Belinda Tynan

This collection of essays outlines the emerging developments in the use of 3-D virtual worlds for teaching and learning, with insights for both scholars and practitioners. (Athabasca University Press, \$39.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-133-9)

**NOT TALKING UNION: AN ORAL HISTORY OF
NORTH AMERICAN MENNONITES IN LABOUR**

Janis Thiessen

Drawing on over 100 interviews, Thiessen explores Mennonite responses to labour movements and Mennonite involvement in conscientious objection to unions in this unique approach to the history of labour. (McGill-Queen's University Press, 248 pages, \$110.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-7735-4752-0; \$37.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-7735-4753-7)

OBESITY IN CANADA: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

Edited by Jenny Ellison, Deborah McPhail, and Wendy Mitchinson

A broad, critical perspective on Canada's supposed obesity epidemic, this collection examines obesity in its cultural and historical context and considers how we measure health and wellness and where our attitudes to obesity develop from.

(University of Toronto Press, 448 pages, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-5063-3; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4426-2854-0)

ONE CHILD READING: MY AUTO-BIBLIOGRAPHY

Margaret Mackey

In this drawing together of memory, textual criticism, social analysis, and reading theory, the author, a professor of library and information sciences, revisits the texts she encountered as she became literate. (University of Alberta Press, \$60.00 pb, 504 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-039-4)

**READING FROM BEHIND: A CULTURAL
ANALYSIS OF THE ANUS**

Jonathan A. Allan

This playful yet scholarly, entertaining, and informative exploration of everything from poetry to porn democratizes the anus as a site of necessity and as a location of pleasure. (University of Regina Press, \$34.95 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-384-4)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

RECLAIMING THE PERSONAL: ORAL HISTORY IN POST-SOCIALIST EUROPE

Edited by Natalia Khanenko-Friesen and Gelinada Grinchenko

Focusing on such issues as repressed memories of WWII, the economic challenges of late socialism, and the experience of post-socialist transition, this collection of essays underscores the political implications of oral history research in Belarus, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine.

(University of Toronto Press, \$65.00 hc, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4426-3738-2)

THE SEVEN OAKS READER

Myrna Kostash

This comprehensive retelling of one of Canada's Fur Trade Wars incorporates period accounts, histories, songs, and fiction from a variety of sources, telling how the struggle for dominance between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company came to a deadly climax on June 19, 1816, at the Battle of Seven Oaks in today's Winnipeg. (NeWest Press, \$26.95 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926455-53-2)

SHAPING A WORLD ALREADY MADE: LANDSCAPE AND POETRY OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES

Carl J. Tracie, foreword by Dennis Cooley, introduction by John Warkentin

This book examines the poet-landscape relationship, looking at how poetry about the Prairies actually shapes the physical landscape of the Prairies, as poets invest the landscape with symbolic significance and in other ways shape people's perceptions. (University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 246 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-393-6)

SOLVING POVERTY: INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FROM WINNIPEG'S INNER CITY

Jim Silver

This book collects essays written by Silver over the past decade, essays that explain complex poverty, propose innovative solutions that have worked on a local level, and offer a pan-Canadian strategy to reduce urban poverty in Canada.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$26.00 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55266-821-4)

STARTLE AND ILLUMINATE: CAROL SHIELDS ON WRITING

Edited by Anne Giardini and Nicholas Giardini
Compiled by her daughter and grandson from her lectures, essays, correspondence,

and notes, these gems of Carol Shields's characteristic wisdom and advice on the craft of writing and the life of a writer make up a valuable reference for readers, writers, and fans of Shields.

(Random House, \$29.95 hc, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0-345-81594-1)

THROUGH AN UNKNOWN COUNTRY: THE JARVIS-HANINGTON WINTER EXPEDITION THROUGH THE NORTHERN ROCKIES, 1874-1875

Mike Murtha and Charles Helm

This book brings together the day-to-day reports of Edward Worrell Jarvis and the more entertaining narrative of Charles Francis Hanington written as they travelled on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Survey from Quesnel, BC, to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$30.00 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-133-7)

TRAINING ACES: CANADA'S AIR TRAINING DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Peter C. Conrad

This book tells the story of the development of Canadian military aviation, which played a significant role in air training efforts before and during the First World War and had a major impact on Commonwealth Air Training in the Second World War.

(Bookland Press, \$24.95 pb, 232 pages, with notes, ISBN: 978-1-77231-041-6)

THE 12 GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS AND OTHER STORIES

Joan Eyolfson Cadham

This collection of facts, history, superstitions, legends, and stories covers Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, and the big day itself.

(Saskatt Books, \$23.00 pb, 150 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-1-896971-93-3)

WHITE SETTLER RESERVE: NEW ICELAND AND THE COLONIZATION OF THE CANADIAN WEST

Ryan Eyford

This account of the establishment of a colony of Icelandic immigrants on the banks of Lake Winnipeg in 1875 traces the connections between the colonists, the Indigenous people they displaced, and other settler groups, while exposing the ideas and practices integral to building a colonial society.

(University of British Columbia, \$95.00 hc, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7748-3158-1)

WITHOUT APOLOGY: WRITINGS ON ABORTION IN CANADA

Edited by Shannon Stettner

This account of the personal experiences of activists, feminists, scholars, abortion providers, and clinic support staff moves beyond the polarizing rhetoric that has characterized the issue of abortion and reproductive justice.

(Athabasca University Press, \$29.95 pb, 420 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-159-9)

WHO NEEDS BOOKS? READING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Lynn Coady

In this essay, part of the Canadian Literature Centre Kreisel Lecture Series, prize-winning fiction writer Lynn Coady suggests that even though digital advances have long been associated with the erosion of literacy, recent technologies have not debased our culture but rather have changed the way we read.

(University of Alberta Press, \$10.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-124-7)

A WORLD TO WIN: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND COUNTER-HEGEMONY

William K. Carroll and Kanchan Sarker

This book examines the histories and structures facing social movements, and analyzes our current era of crisis and change in Canada and the rest of the world, from Indigenous resistance and student strikers to workers, feminist, and queer movements.

(ARP Books, \$24.95 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-1-894037-73-0)

WHY THE PORCUPINE IS NOT A BIRD: EXPLORATIONS IN THE FOLK ZOOLOGY OF AN EASTERN INDONESIAN PEOPLE

Gregory Forth

This analysis of knowledge of animals among the Nage people of Indonesia sheds light on the ongoing anthropological debate surrounding the categorization of animals in small-scale, non-Western societies, as it reveals these classifications align surprisingly well with taxonomies of modern biologists.

(University of Toronto Press, 384 pages, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0004-7; \$36.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2001-4)

Truth, First

Poet faces residential school trauma in collection

by Steve Locke

Truth is at the forefront of the poetry in Louise Bernice Halfe–Sky Dancer’s latest collection, *Burning in This Midnight Dream*. First among these many steps toward reconciliation is the act of sharing life experiences, and in this book, readers find an individual wrestling with the lingering trauma of residential school abuse inherited from her parents.

“Reconciliation requires the understanding of the truth,” Halfe–Sky Dancer says. “All Canadians need to hear the truth as we are all in this bucket together.”

In a voice that’s palpably brave, the poems immediately read as much more than an individual coping with lingering trauma, but as acts of defiance when the sound of silence being broken is well heard.

“When the silence is broken, there is a possibility that the abuses will stop,” she explains. “It forces people to hear and see – to acknowledge the shared

history, which was perpetrated by the government and churches. It requires people to reflect on the exercise of power by their institutions. Even to this day the priests in some communities are still stopping people from sharing their ceremonies at burials.”

As a poet, Halfe–Sky Dancer is empowered with the gift of language, which puts her in an honoured role as a teacher to those looking to find their own voice.

“Though I write from the first person and some of it is my reality, it is the voice of many people severely wounded, who perhaps don’t have the vocabulary to articulate their stories, or are dead,” she says.

Interspersed throughout the poems are photographs portraying people, including Halfe–Sky Dancer as a child, her parents, grandparents, and even her grandchildren. Seeing these people and knowing their names gives weight to the words. The collection thereby provides a visual and verbal record for the present and future generations who still feel the enormous effects of residential school abuse.

“Now that it’s over, there’s a responsibility to move forward,” she says. “The photograph of my grandsons indicates that residential school history stopped when I went into therapy; however, my children were nonetheless



BURNING IN THIS MIDNIGHT DREAM

Louise Bernice Halfe

Coteau Books

\$16.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55050-665-5

impacted. My grandchildren *may* have escaped the trauma, but are now learning its long history directly from me and by the written word.”

These poems, this voice, these teachings – these are the very elements taking root in first steps toward confronting trauma as a nation. But as someone who’s essentially put the stories and the context of residential school survivors down on paper, does reconciliation begin to take shape for the writer or the community? Is that still too big a question to ask?

“I *think* this is too soon to answer that my bit of truth has any role in defining reconciliation,” Halfe–Sky Dancer says. “It’s a whole other question.”

“The writing is an act of faith to help people explore the truth, and thereby helps them move toward reconciliation. The book has its own journey.” 🌿

*“All Canadians need
to hear the truth
as we are all in
this bucket together.”*

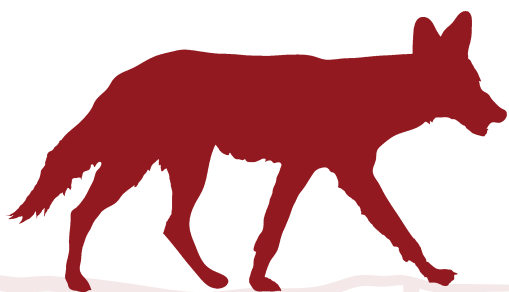


Locally sourced

Pemmican celebrates over 36 years of Métis literature

by Quentin Mills-Fenn

Pemmican is a nutritious food made from locally sourced ingredients. It's also the name of Winnipeg-based, Métis-focused publishing house, led by its long-time managing editor, Randal McIlroy.



"The future is bright.
The proof will be on
the bookshelves."

"April 2016 marked my first decade with Pemmican," McIlroy says. "I've been kept busy as managing editor, not only with choosing, editing, and shepherding manuscripts, but also with overseeing much of the paperwork."

Pemmican began late in 1980 with the combined stock of two publishers, Editions Bois-Brûlés and The Metis Press.

"Honestly, I don't know much of that time, but a few older books and catalogues in the archives show a pattern we follow now, with Métis cultural history and children's books consonant with the mandate to promote Métis artists and culture," he says.

That mandate invites the question of what constitutes Métis literature.

"I don't have the answer, any more than I can define Canadian literature, but Pemmican has certainly promoted Métis artists," says McIlroy. "Along the way, I've become keen at detecting cultural tokenism – say, a hopeful mention of Louis Riel, bannock, or buffalo to make a story fit."

Pemmican is an arm's-length affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation and is located in MMF's head office. The publisher participates in many MMF activities, but is otherwise independent. "MMF holds no sway over story choices or presentation," McIlroy says.

It's a small house, but a productive one, with an appealing backlist and intriguing new books.

"I'm cheered by all we have in the pipeline for 2016, but I'll focus on one for now," McIlroy says, "*I Don't Like*



Bugs! by Edgar Danny Desjarlais. It's the story of a young boy and girl trying to enjoy summer without the attention of various winged nasties.

"This is a cute illustrated story that should engage young readers, especially when they're preparing for summer and the insect season," he adds. It is the latest to feature illustrations by Kimberly McKay, who has illustrated four books for Pemmican.

"We've made inroads
into adult and young
adult fiction in the
past 10 years."

It is also their fifth children's story to be presented simultaneously in Michif and English. Michif is the traditional language of the Métis, drawn from French and Cree. The first four were written by Bonnie Murray



for the Michif Children's Series, with leading Michif linguist Rita Flamand translating.

Although the Pemmican catalogue has a wide selection for the younger set, it features books for all ages, McIlroy points out.

"We've made inroads into adult and young adult fiction in the past 10 years," he says. "One of our latest coups was signing Matthew Tétreault for *What Happened on the Bloodvein*. It's a collection of short stories – tough, understated and insightful, with a modern feel that's crucial to our plan to attract and hold adult readers."

Another is *Shut the Door*, the second novel from Maureen Flynn, which builds on her first novel, *Buckle My Shoe*. McIlroy describes it as "a famous Winnipeg ghost story entwined with a modern murder mystery,

with a dedicated detective and his wily girlfriend. It's swift, smart, and sexy, and Winnipeggers will recognize many sides of their city."

He goes on to mention other worthy writers and titles. Linda Ducharme's novel, *Spirit of the North*, takes a singular approach to recent Manitoba history, with a young couple struggling to live comfortably in the North while a wolf seems to watch all. T. D. Thompson's three novels (*Flight of the Wild Geese*, *Retro Girl*, and *Rooster*) feature flawed and fascinating teenagers, with more than the usual challenges to defining identity. *Culloo*, by Murielle Cyr, uses human and mythological threats in a dark forest to spur the young heroine's coming of age.

McIlroy is bullish when he considers the future of Pemmican, although like any business-minded person he recognizes the difficulties.

"It's a challenge, frankly, for an office team of only two," he says. Pemmican signed a distribution arrangement last year with an established publisher to help bring their books to wider attention across Canada. They hope to get to Frankfurt for the annual book fair, as well, to take advantage of European fascination for Indigenous North America.

"To borrow a phrase from musician Robert Fripp, however, there is something to prize in being small, mobile, and intelligent," McIlroy says.

"Challenges have spurred greater invention in promoting our books. For example, we support authors who live far beyond Winnipeg to stage their own promotional events, and provide material and organizational support. My invaluable office partner, administrative assistant Nicholas Mauws, is always searching for new markets.

"The future is bright. The proof will be on the bookshelves." 🌿



WHAT HAPPENED ON THE BLOODVEIN

Matthew Tétreault

This debut story collection taps the tension bubbling underneath everyday life in small-town Manitoba, from a woman's dangerous liaison to a homesteader's obsession with a roving coyote. (Pemmican, \$20.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-894717-98-4)

SHUT THE DOOR

Maureen Flynn

In this follow-up mystery to *Buckle My Shoe*, detective Steve Anthony and his partner Penny are drawn to a venerable Winnipeg hotel in hopes of cracking one of the city's oldest paranormal secrets, but soon find trouble much closer to home. (Pemmican, \$20.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-894717-97-7)

LIL' CREEPERS EPIC ALL HALLOW'S EVE

Shawna Mathison

In this colourfully illustrated picture book, Zombie Brenna and her macabre pals finish their costumes and prepare for a night of food and games during All Hallow's Eve, a night like our Halloween, but so much more. (Pemmican, \$14.95 pb, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-894717-99-1)

GRANDMA AND THE LOUP GAROU

Angel St. Cyr, illustrated by Sheldon Dawson

Grandma tells a fireside story about Louis and his misadventure in a dark wood when he meets a wolfman, or loup garou, but there is more to this mythical beast than fearful people would believe. (Pemmican, \$10.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926506-00-5)

I DON'T LIKE BUGS!

Edgar Danny Desjarlais

Michif translation by William Sanderson
Illustrated by Kimberly McKay

In this colourful, bilingual (English-Michif) picture book, a little boy and girl look forward to summer, but insects of all kinds distract from their fun. (Pemmican, \$10.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926506-00-5)

TAKEN

Debut novel a chronicle of courage and resilience

by Margaret Anne Fehr

Carol Daniels's debut novel, *Bearskin Diary*, casts a spotlight on a period in Canadian history known as the Sixties Scoop – the Canadian practice, beginning in the 1960s and continuing until the late 1980s, of “scooping up” children of Indigenous families for placement in foster or adoptive homes. It is estimated that 20,000 Indigenous children were placed within Canada and others were relocated to the U.S. and western Europe.

Daniels is in a good position to tell this story – she was “scooped” as a child, and she went on to become Canada’s first Aboriginal woman to anchor a national newscast for CBC Newsworld in 1989.

“It is important to know and understand our history, even the dark chapters,” says Daniels. “While the majority of Canadians know about the residential school experience, almost no one knows about the subsequent chapter that is the Scoop.”

She felt it was timely to examine the lives of the scoop children through the eyes of *Bearskin Diary*’s fictional hero, Sandy. “I named her Sandy, because that is the colour of the Earth. To move forward as Indigenous Peoples, we all need to be rooted.”

Daniels has experienced, seen, and heard “too many horrible things about how our First Nations people are treated in terms of racism in society. That is the story that needs to be told in frank and descriptive terms, the message being that racism and hatred are not cool.”

She expects that *Bearskin Diary* will appeal to anyone with

an interest in Canadian history, although, of course, people who have experienced the effects of the Sixties Scoop will be particularly interested.

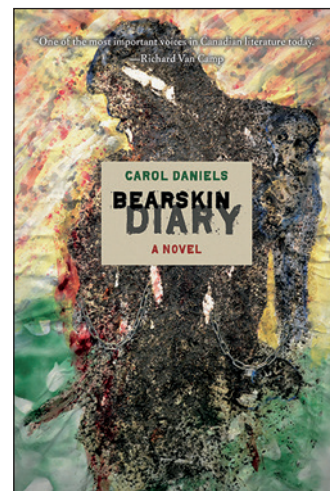
“But because the main character is a strong Indigenous female character, I think women in general will like the story,” she adds.

The ending of the story is a source of particular pride for Daniels. “A woman, once lost and disconnected, has found her way home,” she says. “I see it as a love story, but not in the conventional way. It is a love of culture that resonates.”

Daniels is also an accomplished visual artist, and her piece *Stealing the Light* appears on the book’s cover.

“I can’t tell you how happy I am that the publisher went with this image,” she says. “I created it after hearing a moving story from an Elder about Indian agents coming to take Aboriginal children away to residential schools.”

Daniels believes that *Bearskin Diary* will contribute to the dialogue around a national inquiry being called into missing and murdered Indigenous



BEARSKIN DIARY

Carol Daniels

Nightwood Editions

\$21.95 pb, 256 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88971-331-6

women. “*Bearskin Diary* clearly delivers the words, ‘I belong. My story is important and you will no longer ignore me.’”

Sandy’s story shows how the negative effects of the Scoop can be overcome.

“I know scooped children who still wear that cloak of shame that was placed on us,” says Daniels. “Those ashamed to have First Nations blood, something which was taught in white homes and communities. I know of scooped kids who have committed suicide because they felt alone and like no one cared.”

“All I know is our First Nations culture is beautiful, strong, and proud. I wanted the main character to let readers know the same.”

WRITTEN IN STONE

Anishinaabe experience the heart of new collection

by Quentin Mills-Fenn

As a writer and publisher, Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm reflects the gamut of modern Anishinaabe experience in much of her work. The stories in the latest book, *The Stone Collection*, are not only told with sensitivity, humour, and a palpable affection for her characters, but are also strongly rooted in place.

"In all of them," she says, "I was very interested in capturing the small moments that define the characters and their lives. So often it's the small moments, the small gestures, the seemingly insignificant things that define us, create our lives, that spin our lives in new directions, and that we remember."

THE STONE COLLECTION

Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm
Highwater Press-Portage & Main
\$18.95 pb, 158 pages
ISBN: 978-1-55379-549-0

These stories are all connected to a First Nations community and therefore a geography, history, knowledge, and culture. "Relationships and kinship are very important but not only between people but with the land, the Earth, the animals, the spirit world," she says.

Regarding the stones of the title, Akiwenzie-Damm says, "In my family, we spend a lot of time walking the beach, picking up stones, admiring each one for its fossils, colour, shiny bits, shape, size. We pocket some. Set some back down. We skip stones. We build paths and inuksuit. I think of writing and of creating this collection as similar."

She explains how in the Anishinaabemowin language, stones are alive, infused with a life energy.

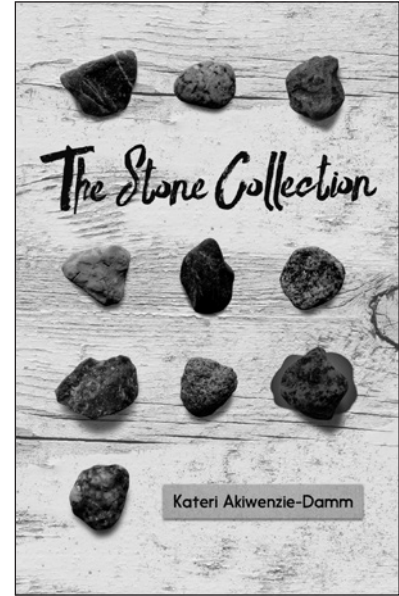
"Stones are gathered for medicine wheels and for ceremony. Also, the stones in my community contain fossils," she says. "I love that and the symbolism of it. I have a poem called 'standing ground' and part of it goes: 'like fossils in stone, ancestors in me.'"

Themes explored in the collection range from illness to wholeness, suicide and survival, and love and its other. Some stories even get frankly sexy.

"They are there because they are part of the way I write," she says, "since I began to understand how important it is to our lives as Indigenous people to reclaim and assert our beliefs and knowing about love, sex, and sexuality through art, song, stories as well as in our conversations and interactions with each other and in defiance of a colonial society that has never accepted or respected that aspect of our humanity.

"For me," she adds, "They are part of creating stories and characters and communities that are fully realized. And I enjoy the beauty and playfulness and love I can call forth through these stories."

In addition to her own writing, Akiwenzie-Damm is also the publisher of Kegedonce Press, which specializes in books that involve Indigenous people at all levels of production. The press's



motto is "w'daub awae," which can be loosely translated as "speaking true."

"Kegedonce is a word for a speaker or orator," she explains. "It is also a name in my maternal grandmother's family line. My great grandfather was Charles Kegedonce (C.K.) Jones. His father was Peter Kegedonce Jones. So it's a pretty big name and tag line for the press to carry, but we strive to honour them both in what we do." 🌿



"Stones are gathered for medicine wheels and for ceremony."

Meaningful discussions

Canadians explore influence of Aboriginal culture in new essay collection

by Charmagne Reimer de Veer

The recommendations and revelations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process are prominent in our national consciousness at this time, but how will we keep them alive in a long-term and meaningful way? The struggle to answer this question forms the basis of *In This Together: Fifteen Stories of Truth & Reconciliation*, a collection of essays in which Canadians from various backgrounds come to terms with the influence of Aboriginal culture on their lives.

"I've always found the best way to understand 'issues' is through personal stories, and I think the idea of reconciliation is no different," says editor Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail. "People who looked at the headlines around the Idle No More movement and Truth and Reconciliation Commission and thought, 'I wish I knew more' but weren't sure where to look – this is for them."



IN THIS TOGETHER: *Fifteen Stories of Truth & Reconciliation*

Edited by Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail
Brindle & Glass
\$19.95 pb, 224 pages
ISBN: 978-1-927366-44-8

Despite the diversity of perspectives – Indigenous, Métis, and non-Indigenous – common themes emerge, such as reconnecting with Aboriginal heritage. Several authors uncover their Indigenous history, often barely known to them, as their parents' and grandparents' stories were silenced within the racist structure of mainstream Canadian life.

Rhonda Kronyk, for example, in "A White Aboriginal Woman," describes the effect of systemic racism on her own life when she discovers that her Aboriginal grandmother lost her First Nation Status when she married a white man. This practice didn't end until the 1980s.

Another theme that runs through the book is the relationship to the land. *In This Together* demonstrates how current inhabitants reconcile their own personal rootedness in the land with the knowledge and heritage of the original inhabitants to move toward understanding and respecting Aboriginal culture.

"I didn't seek out essays about the relationship with land in particular, but I'm not surprised it's a common theme," says Metcalfe-Chenail. "I read once that the history of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples is at its core about 'real estate' – that it's all connected to treaties, land surrenders, and reserves."

Place and diversity are closely linked, with contributors identifying themselves with their geographic location and their specific ancestry, both Indigenous and European. This relationship between land and specific cultural differences is exemplified in

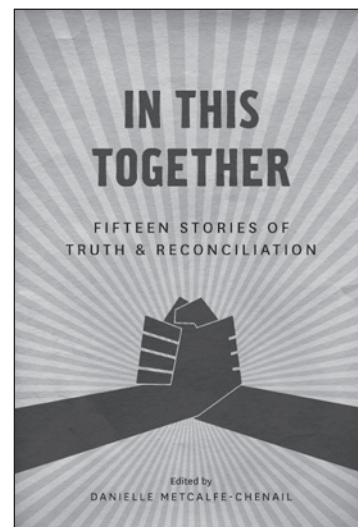
Kamala Todd's "This Many-Storied Land," in which she writes, "I'm a Métis-Cree transplant in Coast Salish territory – what is now called Vancouver, British Columbia.... This is not my land."

Metcalfe-Chenail says, "I think part of meaningful reconciliation is really developing an appreciation and understanding of the different languages, traditions, cultures, and histories that are found among First Peoples in Canada."

That a book like *In This Together* can provoke a meaningful dialogue about truth and reconciliation inspires Metcalfe-Chenail.

"Stories really are the way that we make sense of our own lives and the world around us, and they're far from neutral," she says.

"I hope readers will use the essays in this book as a springboard for examining the stories they tell themselves, or that were passed down in their families, about relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in this country." 🌿



Through the eyes of children

Picture book gives a glimpse into the Road Allowance Métis

by Shirley Byers

In *Road Allowance Kitten*, Wilfred Burton tells the story of two Métis girls and their family who live, work, and play in little houses along the road allowance. Rosie and Madeline find a little calico kitten and share it between their two households. They both love their little Minoosh very much, but one day men in suits arrive in the community and announce they must leave their houses and move to another location. Rosie's mother tells them Kitten can't come with them.

This picture book is colourfully illustrated by Christina Johns. After extensive research, which included studying the different positions of a cat as well as the history and detail of the time period, 1949 – everything from quilts to clothing to cars, buildings, and trains – first-time illustrator Johns painted on watercolour paper using gouache paint. Like watercolour, gouache comes in tubes and is mixed with water, but it's a higher pigment concentration, so the colours are brighter and more intense.

Johns enjoyed illustrating the book, but it was time consuming.

"It took four and a half months," she says. "I treated it like a job over the summer when I was off school, and I took my weekends for myself, for camping and family events,

et cetera. However, when school started back up in September, I painted in the evenings and on the weekends until complete in mid-November."

Burton says *Road Allowance Kitten* was written for children older than the traditional picture book audience, though. He says it was written more as a way of conveying history in an engaging way than as pure entertainment.

"I wanted this story preserved for future generations. It fills a gap in Indigenous literature," he says. "There isn't another picture book that delves into this part of our history."

To add to its educational value, *Road Allowance Kitten* includes, along with the Michif translation in text and on CD, a two-page description of the road allowance Métis, instructions for playing the cricket-like game Canny Can, and lyrics to the traditional song "Alouette."



While the book portrays a dark part of Métis history – as the girls travel to their new location, through the windows of the train they see their road allowance houses burning – it is an important part of Métis history and should not be forgotten, Burton says.

"When presenting the book to children, I tell them before reading that the story is one of happiness and sadness. I also tell them it is a true story, one that



ROAD ALLOWANCE KITTEN/ LI PCHI MINOOSH DI SHMAYN'D LIING

Wilfred Burton, illustrated by Christina Johns,
translated into Michif by Norman Fleury
Gabriel Dumont Institute Press

\$15.00 pb, 52 pages
with glossary, map, and CD of English
and Michif narrations
ISBN: 978-1-926795-72-0

actually happened to families/ children in the past. I tell them that the inspiration for the book came from stories, and in those stories that were told to me the cat didn't have such a good ending, but in this story the cat does.

"They appreciate how the story is woven together with the cat as a central character. It shifts the reality of the situation a bit when you can focus on the cat instead of the tragedy." 🌿

"There isn't another picture book that delves into this part of our history."

Truth seekers

The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada available in print

by David Jón Fuller

We maintained from the beginning of our work and throughout the process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that getting to the truth was going to be hard.”

Those are the words of former judge, now Senator Murray Sinclair, chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on the process of collecting testimony, information, and documents to tell the truth about Canada’s Indian residential school system.

Sinclair, along with Chief Wilton Littlechild and Dr. Marie Wilson, headed the commission, but even establishing the TRC did not go smoothly.

The TRC was the result of a settlement between the federal government and residential school survivors. “The survivors settled for a compensation process that was probably not as good as they might have been able to get if they had gone to court,” says Sinclair. The benefit for survivors was an easier verification process for claims, but the deal gave them a lower amount of compensation.

“Nothing was easy. And it should have been a lot easier.”

“And in return for that, the government was to do certain things, one of which was to agree to the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission that would have as a mandate the full revelation of the complete history of the residential schools, and the responsibility to develop a plan for reconciliation going forward,” explains Sinclair.

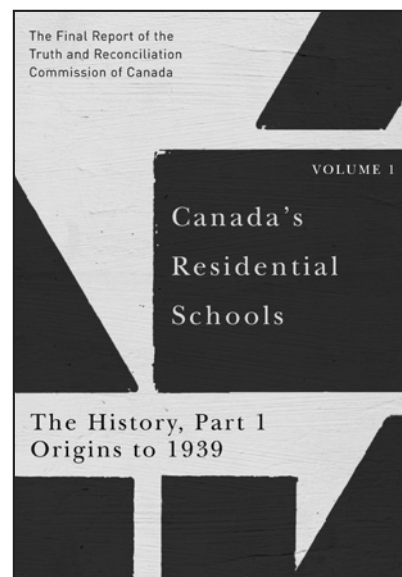
All of the parties involved – the survivors, the federal government, and the churches – were obligated to provide all relevant documents regarding the residential schools. The government and the churches had close to 100 percent of all relevant documents.

“The TRC initially had a stumbling start,” says Sinclair. “Part of the reasons why the original chair quit was because of what he saw as over-supervision from the federal government and interference from the Assembly of First Nations.”

The TRC got underway in 2009, nearly two and a half years after the settlement had been signed. The commission requested all necessary documents from the federal government and the heads of all the church organizations. This was in part to aid the writing of the report but also to establish an archive, where the documents could be housed free from party destruction in the future.

From 2010 forward, says Sinclair, “it became a pretty significant fight between us and the federal government and the Catholics, who became resistant to providing us with documents. We ended up having to go to court a number of times, I think three times in total, in order to get court direction about what the federal government was to do.”

Ultimately the federal government was ordered to provide the TRC with



all relevant documents, and it wasn’t until the latter part of 2013 that the government began to really search for documents “in a serious manner.”

“Nothing was easy. And it should have been a lot easier,” Sinclair says, and adds that there are a significant number of documents the TRC was unable to acquire in the time frame it had.

The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (in six volumes) draws on these decades’ worth of government reports, court cases, legislation, photographs, and other sources, as well as from the wealth of testimony from residential school survivors. The aims, implementation, and effects of the school system as set up by the government of Canada and run by various church denominations are put in the context of relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada since early days of contact, and of European imperialism and colonialism around the world.

The history revealed in the report is very different from the one that many Canadians grew up with, and is now impossible to ignore. It could change the way people look at Canada’s history.

“I think it’s inevitable,” says Sinclair. “I think there will be resistance to that, mainly because everyone is comfortable with the history that we’ve all been

taught; as adults, it's hard for us to go back and realize we may have been misled, and we may have misled others, particularly young people, to this point in time."

Sinclair says some people believe that maintaining the status quo regarding historical education is preferable, but the end result of that would be continued ignorance on the part of Canadians about what really happened in Canada from Confederation onward insofar as Indigenous peoples are concerned.

As revealed in the report, from early on it's clear that Europeans – particularly the French and English – saw their own religion and customs as superior and sought to convert Indigenous peoples to a European way of thinking and living.

The first residential schools opened in the 1870s. The last one in Canada was closed in 1996. According to the TRC, approximately 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were placed in these schools, and about 80,000 former students are still living. The TRC collected testimony from roughly 12,000 survivors.

The express policy of the schools, where in most cases children were taken from their parents and often forbidden from speaking with their siblings even if at the same school, was to "kill the Indian in the child." They were prevented from speaking their own languages, often lived in crowded, poorly ventilated conditions, and were made to feel their cultures were inferior. Many experienced abuse at the hands of school staff, and many also died at alarming rates, as a result of poor nutrition and living conditions

that allowed diseases such as tuberculosis to spread quickly.

The church-run schools were chronically underfunded almost from the beginning. Children were often made to work just to keep the schools running – and therefore were not able to spend as much time in class.

"The fact of the matter is that our report – and others as well, it's not just our report but others as well – and research that has been done show that Canada does not come to this dialogue with clean hands," says Sinclair, "and that there is a lot more to the history than we have been allowed to speak about in the past because the documents had not been revealed."

"Everyone is comfortable with the history that we've all been taught."

In fact, Canada's treatment of Indigenous people is just as bad as the treatment of Indigenous people around the world. "And Canada also inherited a history with England, France, and to a certain extent Spain, who were involved in acts of genocide down in the southern states and in Central America and in South America as well," he says.

"All of that, of course, is part of the Aboriginal memory of this place, and part of the reconciliation process that's necessary is that all Canada and Indigenous people have to come to terms with that history in order to be able to move forward." 🌿

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA, VOLUMES 1 TO 6

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
McGill-Queen's University Press

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MORE FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT

FICTION & POETRY

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Young Sinopaki is taken from her parents to St. Mark's Residential School, where she is called Rose Marie and stripped of her home culture and language. This powerful novel reveals the inside workings of a residential school from both a young student's bewildered and a senior nun's jaded perspectives.

(Simon and Schuster, \$32.00 hc, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4767-9518-8)

CLOUDS

Lucy Haché, illustrated by Michael Joyal
"Clouds are a mystery and I am studying them." So writes Haché, a new writer of 'Nakwaxda'xw/Scottish-Irish ancestry, in this spare and contemplative investigation into identity and self-understanding.
(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9917610-7-4)

MY SILENT DRUM

Ovide Mercredi

The former National Chief for the Assembly of First Nations reveals another side in these poems, in which he explores his thoughts on ceremony, politics, the environment, and love.
(Aboriginal Issues Press, \$20.00 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-928008-04-0)

THE RED FILES

Lisa Bird-Wilson

This debut poetry collection reflects on the legacy of the residential school system and colonial violence resulting in generations of displaced children and the fragmentation of families and histories that resonates through generations.
(Nightwood Editions, \$18.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-316-1)

TEARS IN THE GRASS

Lynda A. Archer

This story of three generations of women tells how Elinor Greystone, an elderly Cree artist, joined by her daughter and granddaughter, searches for the child taken from her almost 80 years ago after she was raped in a residential school.
(Dundurn, \$17.99 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4597-3211-7)

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

AN ARROW IN MY HEART: A FIRST NATION WOMAN'S ACCOUNT OF SURVIVAL FROM THE STREETS TO THE HEIGHT OF ACADEMIA

Sharon L. Acoose, PhD

Acoose, an associate professor of Indigenous Social Work at First Nations University of Canada in Saskatoon, tells of her life of sexual abuse, drug addiction, sex work, and incarceration, and of how she came through it all to work on the other side of corrections after obtaining university degrees and a connection to her culture.

(JCharlton Publishing, \$23.00 pb, 101 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926476-01-8)

THE BALLAD OF DANNY WOLFE: LIFE OF A MODERN OUTLAW

Joe Friesen

This account of one of the founders of the Indian Posse traces his life from his early years in Regina, his first brush with the law at age 4, and his subsequent placement in foster care to his gang leadership and finally his death in 2010.

(McClelland & Stewart, \$34.00 hc, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-3023-9)



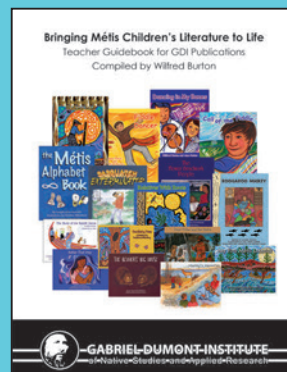
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A TWO-SPIRIT JOURNEY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A LESBIAN OJIBWA-CREE ELDER

Ma-Nee Chacaby with Mary Louisa Plummer

This harrowing and ultimately uplifting story of resilience and self-discovery traces Chacaby's life, from her childhood in a remote Ojibwa community in Ontario, through physical and sexual abuse, alcoholism, and motherhood, to leading the first gay pride parade in Thunder Bay.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$24.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-812-2)

NON-FICTION

CROW NEVER DIES: LIFE ON THE GREAT HUNT

Larry Frolick

This narrative combines archival records, scientific research, First Nations traditions, and personal observations of the five years the author spent travelling with First Nations Elders on hunts in remote communities across the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut. (University of Alberta Press, \$29.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-085-1)

A CULTURE'S CATALYST: HISTORICAL ENCOUNTERS WITH PEYOTE AND THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Fannie Kahan, edited by Erika Dyck

This mid-century study of psychiatrists, peyote, and the Native American Church of Canada examines Native-newcomer relations and Canadian government attitudes to Indigenous cultural and religious practices. (University of Manitoba Press, \$24.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-814-6)

FINAL REPORT OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA: VOLUME ONE: SUMMARY: HONOURING THE TRUTH, RECONCILING FOR THE FUTURE

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

This summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission includes chapters on the history, the legacy, and the challenge of reconciliation, and lists the 94 calls to action.

(Lorimer, \$22.95 pb, 456 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1067-1)

HONORER LA VÉRITÉ, RÉCONCILIER POUR L'AVENIR : SOMMAIRE DU RAPPORT FINAL DE LA COMMISSION DE VÉRITÉ ET DE RÉCONCILIATION DU CANADA

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
French translation of the summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

(McGill-Queen's University Press, \$24.95 pb, 592 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7735-4670-7)

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR: THE ESSENTIAL HISTORY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA, EDITED AND ABRIDGED

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Foreword by Phil Fontaine

This book gathers material from the TRC report to present the history and legacy of residential schools, and the calls to action for reconciliation. An afterword by Aimée Craft introduces the holdings and opportunities of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), the permanent archive at the University of Manitoba.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$17.95 pb, 294 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-785-9)

THE KNOWLEDGE SEEKER: EMBRACING INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY

Blair Stonechild

Stonechild relates his own story of attending residential school in the 1960s and obtaining a PhD at McGill University and then looks at how First Nations can decolonize the Western tradition of education by implementing Indigenous spiritual ceremonies, practices, and teachings into the classroom.

(University of Regina Press, \$32.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-417-9)

LIVING ON THE LAND: INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S UNDERSTANDING OF PLACE

Edited by Nathalie Kermoal and Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez

This examination of how patriarchy, gender, and colonialism have shaped the experience of Indigenous women, including the Naskapi in Quebec, Métis women in Western Canada, and Indigenous women in Nicaragua, focuses on the integral role of women as stewards of the land and governors of the community.

(Athabasca University Press, \$27.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-041-7)

MYTHOLOGIZING NORVAL MORRISSEAU: ART AND THE COLONIAL NARRATIVE IN THE CANADIAN MEDIA

Carmen L. Robertson

This study of one of Canada's most significant artists uses news stories, magazine articles, and film footage to chart the colonial attitudes and stereotypes directed at Morriseau and other Indigenous artists. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 316 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-810-8)

100 DAYS OF CREE

Neal McLeod with Arok Wovengrey

Based on a series of Facebook posts, the 100 short chapters or "days" in this book present chains of related Cree words, some dealing with the traditional, and others cheekily capturing modern life and slang.

(University of Regina Press, \$24.95 pb, 302 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-429-2)

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS: THE DEVASTATING IMPACT ON CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND CALLS FOR ACTION, RIGHTING CANADA'S WRONGS SERIES

Melanie Florence

This lavishly illustrated book for young readers provides a history of the residential school system, and includes the text of the Canadian government's apology for the historic wrongs committed by the residential school system and summarizes the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action.

(Lorimer, \$34.95 hc, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-0866-1)

SHATTERED SPIRITS IN THE LAND OF THE LITTLE STICKS: CONTEXTUALIZING THE IMPACT OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AMONG THE WOODLAND CREE

Herman J. Michell, PhD

This account of Michell's experiences in residential school combines the personal and academic, as his analysis describes the impact of abuse in the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional dimensions, offering reasons why healing from the effects is so difficult.

(JCharlton Publishing, \$16.00 pb, 76 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926476-03-2)

VISITING WITH THE ANCESTORS: BLACKFOOT SHIRTS IN MUSEUM SPACES

Laura Peers and Alison K. Brown

This is the story of how groups of Blackfoot people in Alberta participated in special handling sessions for Blackfoot shirts owned by an Oxford museum, resulting in the recovery of long-dormant memories and emphasis on the need for bridges between museums and source communities and change in museum policies.

(Athabasca University Press, \$39.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-037-0)

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French translation by Mona Buors
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CRITICAL MASS

Cooley releases poetry and essay collections

by Quentin Mills-Fenn

Dennis Cooley has had a long career as a poet, critic, and educator. This spring, he had the good fortune to publish two books: a poetry collection, *departures*, and a book of literary criticism, *The Home Place: Essays on Robert Kroetsch's Poetry*. But, he says, there's no master plan.

"More a matter of chance than anything," Cooley says, "these books arriving at the same time. The writing goes on, interminably it sometimes seems. As long as I'm enjoying the work I'm reluctant to let it go."

"*departures* had been in process for over 20 years and it has gone through something like a dozen major versions," he adds. "*The Home Place* in a sense has taken even longer."

The poetry collection features Cooley's trademark wordplay, earthiness, and far-ranging curiosity, and covers new terrain as well. His publisher says *departures* is his 20th book of poetry, a fact that surprises even the poet himself.



"I'm not sure if it actually is 20," he says. "I had no idea the list would get this long. I actually feared when I published the first one, a small chapbook called *Leaving*,

that I had used up all my poems and would have no more."

Cooley says that *departures* began in bodily trauma.

"A ruptured appendix. I built the book from that experience. I began to see what else might be done and bit by bit I worked in complications – family lineage, genetics, evolution, astronomy, etymologies, chemistry, popular culture, ecology, dictionaries, grammar, graphics, the human brain. The tangled lines of human susceptibilities."

Despite the variety of topics, there is continuity in his work.

"Loss has always been a theme," Cooley says. "And increasingly the treacheries of the body. I am working on a book that explores the yearning, jeopardized body. There has always been an

elegiac thread and a flagrantly humorous one."

And the poet Cooley is not so far from the critic. *The Home Place*, a collection of critical essays on the poetry of Robert Kroetsch – one of Canada's most important writers, recognized for his fiction, criticism, as well as poetry – is scholarly yet exuberant, drawing on archival research, international scholarship, and personal recollections.

"Kroetsch criticism features his prose fiction and his own speculations," Cooley says. "There are few essays and no books on his poetry. Yet his poetry is dazzlingly smart and accomplished."

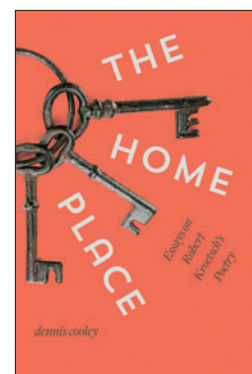
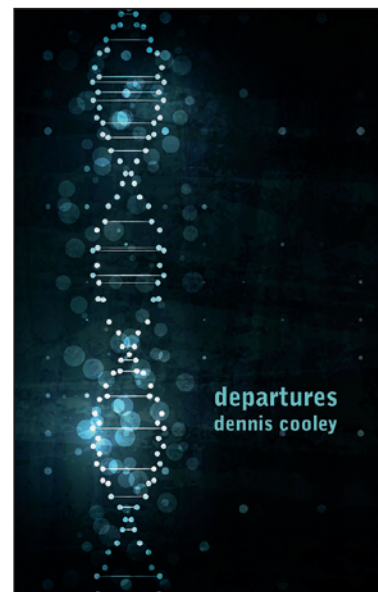
Cooley sees Kroetsch as a regionalist with a fluid sense of "home."

"[He] had an aching attachment to the places of his birth and an abiding wish to honour them," he says. The title of the essay collection comes from *Seed Catalogue*, where Kroetsch "zones in on" ways of naming "the home place" – referring most literally to his family's farm near Heisler, Alberta.

Obviously, *departures* is a personal book for Cooley, and in its own way, so is *The Home Place*, in which he explores his relationship with Kroetsch's work.

"For decades I kept notes, read and reread him, taught his books," Cooley says.

"Kroetsch was an amazing figure and a special friend. He spoke to me as a writer and as a person from the Prairies." ❧



DEPARTURES

Dennis Cooley
Turnstone Press
\$17.00 pb, 136 pages
ISBN: 978-0-88831-563-1

THE HOME PLACE:

Essays on Robert Kroetsch's Poetry

Dennis Cooley
University of Alberta Press
\$49.95 pb, 376 pages
with bibliography, notes, index
ISBN: 978-1-77212-119-3

Glory years

Blodgett releases 26th collection

by Ariel Gordon

E. D. Blodgett published his first book when he was 40. This spring, just having turned 81, he will publish his 26th book of poetry.

"I don't know how, but somehow I've come out the other end feeling kind of relaxed about the whole thing," says Blodgett. "But I think it was a struggle. On the other hand, the poetry never seemed to let me alone."

Horizons, Blodgett's latest book, contains 228 short poems in both English and French. Writing in French has been part of his practice for about a decade, after teaching in the French branch of the University of Alberta.

"It interested me as a poet because I could say things that I couldn't quite say otherwise," says Blodgett, who won the Governor General's Award for poetry in 1996.

The poems in *Horizons* are separate, related technically but not linguistically. They are as brief as haikus, with similar effects, but Blodgett decided against the haiku form.

"I have written haiku poetry but with no satisfaction at all, and I've always believed it's an absolutely Japanese discursive form that doesn't really seem to work in other languages," says Blodgett.

"The beauty of it is that it's so anchored in Japanese, so I thought to myself, What is the verse form in English that is like that but is deeply English? The blank verse line."

Of course, blank verse comes with a certain amount of cultural baggage.

"It's an old line, everybody's familiar with it," says Blodgett. "Consequently, nobody likes it. But if you break it up, declare it an unstable line and really think about how you're doing it, the effect is like haiku."

The French poems are alexandrines, which is the French equivalent to blank verse, a 12-syllable line used in classical drama and poetry.



"The minimalistic poems I write now are very much like the ones I began with."

"It's the line that all the really smart poets of the nineteenth century said they'd had enough of," says Blodgett, "and decided, 'We have to write in a freer style.' Because it's a ritualistic line."

Blodgett is indebted to French-Canadian poet Francois Dumont, whose book *Brisures* played with the alexandrine form. He tried a few lines in French the way Dumont had been doing it and had fun.

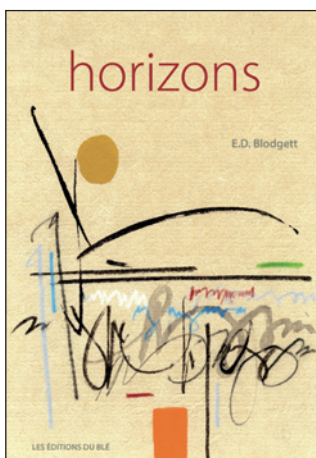
"You can't do the same thing in English because it's not the same line at all," explains Blodgett. "You just can't jump from one to the other and think you're going to land on your feet, unless you're jumping in mid-air and changing your horizon, so to speak."

Blodgett thought a bilingual book belonged with a publisher in a bilingual city, so he submitted it to Winnipeg's Les Éditions du Blé.

"They said they had some hesitations about the English," says Blodgett, "that there had to be more French than English. And I said, 'If you look at it, you'll see that each line in English is shorter than the French line, so there is more French.'"

Though his life has changed enormously since he started publishing, there's something reassuring to Blodgett about the poems he's writing now.

"The minimalistic poems I write now are very much like the ones I began with," Blodgett notes. "That's a sign, I think, of having learned a lot of things in the meantime, but they're the same small style." 🌿



HORIZONS

E. D. Blodgett
Les Éditions du Blé
\$17.95 pb
ISBN: 978-2-924378-41-0

Worth the wait

Driedger's second collection 18 years in the making

by Linda Alberta

Good things come to those who wait and better things come to artists who can kindle the spark of creativity through many busy years. Winnipeg poet and assistant professor Diane Driedger waited years to complete a bold poetic memoir that chronicles a span of personal history – *Red with Living: Poems and Art*. This is her second poetry book.

“My first book, *The Mennonite Madonna*, was in 1999, and it’s taken 18 years to complete my second one. The challenge was having the physical energy; I had many things going on so I just kept putting one foot in front of the other.



RED WITH LIVING:

Poems and Art

Diane Driedger
Inanna Publications
and Education Inc.
\$18.95 pb, 92 pages
ISBN: 978-1-77133-301-6

I told myself, it is worthwhile to do this, but I am going to proceed at a pace where I can make a living,” explains Driedger. She adds that the idea of creating the poetry book was something that always accompanied her.

The poems in *Red with Living* are distinct and flavourful. Referencing travel experiences in Spain, Barbados, Amsterdam, and Trinidad, each celebratory poem offers a story, an observation, or an insight. But in life there is often a measure of salt in the sugar jar. The flip side of life is revealed when Driedger describes her experiences with breast cancer.

Although art has the power to transform lives, Driedger

doesn’t believe the poems created during her illness were part of the healing process.

“I wouldn’t say that poetry is about healing. It’s about empowerment, in terms of making your voice known. I am a five-year cancer survivor, and I use two art forms to empower myself and say, this all may be happening to me but I am going to tell it like it is, to be a witness to my own experience.”

Her second art form is painting, and samples are interspersed throughout the book, each one relevant to the topic at hand. For example, in a flurry of colour she paints herself into the works of Vincent Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Claude Monet, and Maud Lewis.

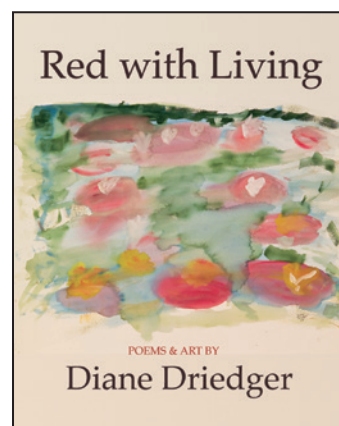
“It’s part of the process of what I was living during that time, and the paintings were something I was doing during this time. Secondly, all these artists had disabilities, and

I’m showing solidarity by painting myself into their paintings. Because the paintings are like little poems of their own, I wanted them in the same volume,” says Driedger.

A Mennonite, Driedger says her favourite poem in the collection is “The Trinidad Bottom” because in Trinidad everyone wears a bikini at Carnival and the reality is they like really big bottoms. The poem imparts a valuable lesson about body acceptance.

Another gem is a folk festival snapshot, “All Together.”

“I saw ‘All Together’ as a conclusion,” says Driedger. “All of this stuff happened, good or bad but everything is okay. Because the clouds are hugging me, there is still the grass, the clouds, and the music; it is all still here and the world is okay. And we are all together.”



NOMINEES FOR THE

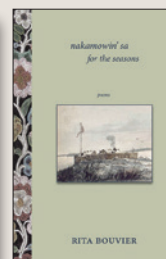
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HUMAN NATURE

Debut collection explores our impact on the environment

by Ariel Gordon

The title poem of Kelly Shepherd's debut collection, *Shift*, opens with the snap of a twig underfoot.

The noise warns the birds on the lake the narrator is approaching and, suddenly, they're gone. But that is just enough time for Shepherd: "Enough to see how it might be done: / the shift from element to element."

The poem's 10 lines tell you everything you need to know about the Edmonton-based poet's work: the attention to moments of transition, to the natural world, and to the changes humanity makes to it.

These questions preoccupy Shepherd, who teaches English at Edmonton's Northern Alberta Institute of Technology but who has also worked as a construction worker in northern Alberta.

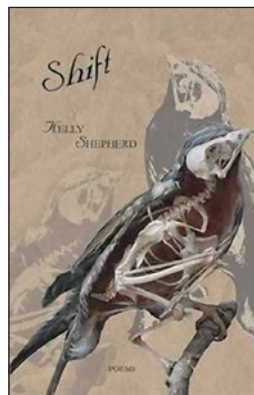
"To what extent do human beings belong with the rest of the world? Do we belong?" asks Shepherd. "Are we creatures of pure, enlightened reason (or spirit) – or are we also physical earthly beings?"

He notes that this dichotomy has long been one of our defining dilemmas, and we still debate it today.

"We love nature," he says, "but we pollute our drinking water and we clearcut forests. We love animals, but we can't survive without killing. And so on. Human beings have always altered their landscapes, to varying degrees, but never on the scale we've achieved – and not in such a short period of time."

Shepherd feels an obligation to include climate change and environmental degradation in his nature poems.

"If everything we write (and everything we *don't* write) is political, then I think we *are* obliged to tackle some of these difficult and sometimes ugly issues," says Shepherd. "I think it's important for us to observe ecological degradation and species loss – for us to act as witnesses, if nothing else – but also to acknowledge our own culpability."



SHIFT

Kelly Shepherd
Thistledown Press
\$17.95 pb, 96 pages
ISBN: 978-1-77187-104-4

"But this is not to say that people should stop writing about beauty, or love, or humour, or the myriad other things that make life worth living."

And so, *Shift* intersperses moments of connection with – and alienation from – nature with poems about childhood, and family, and labour.

"Canadian poetry has a venerable tradition of work-related writing (Al Purdy, Milton Acorn, Rita Wong, Mathew Henderson, and so on) and I have a real appreciation for this subject matter," says Shepherd. "In some ways I see myself belonging to, or coming out of, this same tradition. I have always admired the music of regional, colloquial speech and the slang and terminology that connects people to their work, their families, and their communities."

Shepherd's dual focus on nature and work, the wild and the built environment, has provided him with an interesting vantage point from which to view the world.

"I am very interested in the strata underfoot, and the unknown insides of things," notes Shepherd. "Both the literal (the ground under the newly laid sod in a new subdivision) and the figurative (the mandala inside of an apple)."

One of the goals of his poetry is to seek out and explore these interiors and underground spaces.

"But not to claim them, or try to own them. Not to take them home as souvenirs," he says.

"Instead, to celebrate them and try and recognize them for what they are: mysterious. And fragile." 🌿

"To what extent do human beings belong with the rest of the world?"

MORE POETRY

CARIBOU RUN

Richard Kelly Kernick

In this debut collection, Kernick follows the Porcupine caribou herd through their annual cycle of migration, orchestrating a suite of poems both encyclopedic and lyrical.

(Icehouse Poetry-Goose Lane, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-86492-875-7)

CEREMONY OF TOUCHING

Karen Shklanka

This collection of poems is about the way humans interact, love, grieve, and carry on with everyday life, exploring experiences from the nuclear devastation of Hiroshima to the poet's own days as a dancer, a traveller, and a doctor trying to heal her patients.

(Coteau, \$16.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55050-667-9)

DOCUMENTARIES

Walter Hildebrandt

Hildebrandt denounces the exploitation of the poor and powerless by the wealthy as he documents historical events, such as the Dakota Wars of 1862 and the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, and contemporary injustices in Cuba, England, and Edmonton.

(NeWest, \$19.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926455-56-3)

DOPAMINE BLUNDER

Lori Cayer

In this third collection, Cayer explores what it means to be happy through a multi-faceted lens of anthropology, socio-biology, sociology, psychology, archaeology, medicine, and philosophy, using found poetry and erasure techniques.

(Tightrope Books, \$19.95 pb, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988040-05-9)

EVEN THIS PAGE IS WHITE

Vivek Shraya

This debut collection examines racism – systemic, everyday, cyclic, and internalized – in poems ranging from sound poems and chants to found poems and conversations. “i didn’t know then how complex / an organ skin would become.”

(Arsenal Pulp, \$12.95 pb, 118 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-641-6)

GLORYLAND

Carla Funk

In her fifth collection, Funk looks simultaneously at the smallest wonders of nature and at broad visions of a devastating future, in poems of praise and elegy.

(Turnstone, \$17.00 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-579-2)

IGNITE

Kevin Spent

These elegiac and experimental poems merge memory and medical records to recreate Spent's father's life and lifelong struggle with schizophrenia.

(Anvil Press, \$18.00 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-053-8)

A MAP IN THE BLOOD

Carla Braidek

The boreal forest comes alive in these poems celebrating the work and play of being a contemporary woman.

(Thistledown, \$16.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-096-2)

MARTIAL MUSIC

George Amabile

War's instruments (fortresses, weapons, soldiers) and effects (PTSD, civilian casualties) in ancient ruins and contemporary conflicts, in schools and deserts, airplanes and cities – these poems examine them all with a critical and compassionate eye, demonstrating the power of art to confront and attend.

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Presented by the League of Canadian Poets

This volume collects 13 essays based on the Anne Szumigalski Lecture Series from 2002 to 2015, by such notable Canadian poets as Margaret Atwood, George Elliott Clarke, Tim Lilburn, Gregory Scofield, and Anne Carson.

(University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-371-4)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

LET'S PLAY

Every year, the warm Chinook winds blow along the Rocky Mountains to defy winter's dominance. An entrancing new book tells of an annual, age-old tussle between the spirited Chinook and her icy adversary, Old Man Winter. When the game goes wrong one year, young Kiaya wonders if winter will ever end.

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NEVER MIND

Katherine Lawrence

This collection looks at settlement through the perspective of a nineteenth century immigrant woman who grieves the loss of her mother and of her home left behind.

(Turnstone, \$17.00 pb, 90 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-559-4)

100 DAYS

Juliane Okot Bitek

For 100 days, Bitek recorded the Rwandan genocide in a poem, with each poem recalling the senseless loss of life and innocence. She draws on a variety of poetic traditions, such as the Ugandan Acholi oral tradition of her father, Anglican hymns, slave songs, spoken word, and hip hop.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-121-6)

SLEEPING IN TALL GRASS

Richard Therrien

This cycle of poems – layered and iterative, personal and historical – looks at a painful,

abusive, yet redemptive family story that is inextricably part of the Canadian Prairies.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-122-3)

STAMPEDE AND THE WESTNESS OF WEST

Aritha van Herk

Calgary was the Cultural Capitol of Canada in 2012 when the Stampede hosted Aritha van Herk as the artist-in-residence, resulting in these unique insights in a prose/poetry book that is meditative, imagistic, historical, and speculative, as well as humorous and joyful, and even a bit critical.

(Frontenac House, \$15.95 pb, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927823-49-1)

TOUCH ANYWHERE TO BEGIN

Jim Nason

These poems are attuned to the physical world of weather and touch, expressways and alleys, as they explore the body – young and old, animals and bird, flower and tree, as well as human – at work and

at play, in art and dreams, in lines as “sturdy and translucent as crystal.” (Signature Editions, \$14.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927426-85-2)

WARP AND WEFT: TANKA THREADS

Debbie Strange

These tanka triptychs delve deeply into issues of war, especially as it affects children; wonders of nature, from the stars down to the canyons; and family relationships and loss, from children and teenagers to parents and grandparents. (Keibooks, \$12.00 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-512361124)

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Mary Maxwell

These elegiac and lyrical poems are steeped in loss and lament as they explore the death of the poet’s father and brothers, and the resulting emotions of self-recrimination, denial, and anger.

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Behn there, done that

17th century playwright gets her due on stage

by Kyla Neufeld

All women together ought to let flowers fall upon the grave of Aphra Behn ... for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds."

This epitaph from Virginia Woolf begins a new edition of *Aphra*, a two-act play written and performed by Nancy Jo Cullen, Alexandria Patience, and Rose Scollard. This trio founded and ran the Calgary-based Maenad Theatre Company from 1987 to 2000 and were dedicated to producing work written exclusively by women.

Aphra portrays Aphra Behn, a seventeenth-century English playwright who, by all accounts, was a remarkable woman: by the age of 30, Behn had been married and widowed, worked as a spy for King Charles the Second, and spent time in debtors' prison. She spent the last 20 years of her life writing plays and became the first woman playwright to earn a living by her pen.

"The silencing of Aphra Behn really shocked us."

Though fairly successful in life, Behn, whose plays were mostly scandalous comedies featuring independent women, was quickly vilified after her death.

"She became in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the symbol of bawdiness and pornographic writing," say the play's writers in an essay included in the book. For the next 225 years, Behn remained in oblivion.

"The silencing of Aphra Behn really shocked us," the authors continue. "That wonderful lively joyful voice just snuffed out. Somehow or other we wanted to register that shock in our play."

Aphra takes place two days before Behn's death: she feverishly tries to finish her last play, *The Widow Ranter*, in the midst of illness while her friends, Betty Curren and Mary Betterton, comfort her. To portray a sense of Behn's delirium, Betty and Mary morph into Morality Man and Morality

Woman, two characters who represent the societal forces that worked against Behn at the time. They mock Behn as she writes.

But Morality Man and Morality Woman do not get the last word. *Aphra* itself includes two scenes from *The Widow Ranter*, and many other lines of dialogue come from Behn's letters and prologues. In fact, the play was written "in collaboration with Aphra Behn," as noted on the title page under the authors' names.

Though originally performed in 1991, and published as a chapbook in 1997, *Aphra* is appearing in book form now, complete with biographical notes about Behn, a history of Maenad Theatre, an essay about writing *Aphra*, an interview with the playwrights about the play, and a bibliography.

Patience, who lives in Scotland and is the Reading Champion of the Scottish Book Trust, says a script launch for *Aphra* is scheduled for July 7 through the Glasgow Women's Library. It is her hope that this will encourage others to produce *Aphra* in the U.K. and draw attention to the ongoing problem of the lack of women's voices in theatre. The societal forces that worked against Behn in her time are still prevalent today.

"All of the issues we had are still here, 25 years later," says Patience, about the inequality of men and women in the theatre world and the reason for publishing *Aphra* now.

"The male voice shapes everything." 🌿



APHRA

Nancy Jo Cullen, Alexandria Patience,
and Rose Scollard
Frontenac House
\$18.95 pb, 92 pages
ISBN: 978-1-927823-45-3



CALVIN AND HOMAGE

Cartoon character inspired YA novel about schizophrenia

by Linda Alberta

Some book ideas sit like seeds beneath the snow, before an alignment of elements spark them to life. After completing her 10th young adult novel, award-winning Alberta author Martine Leavitt says there was one story she still had to write, but the framework for *Calvin* eluded her.

Then, like Cupid's arrow, inspiration struck.

"Every story I write finds its genesis in something close to me," says Leavitt. "Of course mental illness is a topic, not a story. And for years, I kept myself open to the story that would best express it.

"Finally the story came to me in one lump. I woke up in the morning, picked up where I left off, and I

knew exactly what was going to happen, that day. It just flowed. That never happens."

Calvin is written as a letter to comic strip writer, Bill Watterson – the creator of *Calvin and Hobbes*. With an affinity for this famous cartoon, Leavitt created a 17-year-old protagonist named after Calvin, who was born the day the last strip was published.

CALVIN

Martine Leavitt
Groundwood Books
\$14.95 pb, 184 pages
ISBN: 978-1-55498-720-7

"The reality is that people with mental illness have historically been treated barbarically."

His favourite childhood toy was a stuffed tiger named Hobbes that his grandpa left in his crib.

When Calvin suddenly experiences what is diagnosed as

schizophrenia, Hobbes comes to life as a constant, phantasmagoric tiger companion, and Calvin becomes obsessed with visiting Bill Watterson. If Watterson writes a comic with him mentally healthy and without Hobbes, Calvin believes he will be cured. To meet Watterson, Calvin sets off on a journey across frozen Lake Erie, with his friend Susie – who could be flesh but might also be a hallucination.

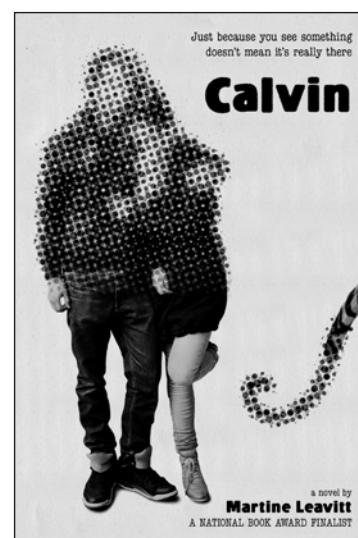
Guiding Leavitt in the right story direction was a tiger, a boy, and a newspaper article.

"First off, I am a huge *Calvin and Hobbes* fan. One day rereading my *Calvin and Hobbes* comics, I realized that in this world Calvin might have been diagnosed as a maladaptive daydreamer or schizophrenic," she explains.

"Then I found an article by Dave Voelker who went on an amazing adventure and walked, by himself, across the frozen Lake Erie. With that, I was able to begin."

Leavitt started the book with fact-finding research that she says was demanding – because not everyone agrees on the cause of schizophrenia or how it is treated.

"In ancient times people thought schizophrenics were oracles of God. In medieval times



they thought they were possessed by the devil. When I was young, people thought it was caused by bad parenting. There are many misconceptions, says Leavitt.

"The reality is that people with mental illness have historically been treated barbarically. I believe we are now just coming out of the fog."

Creating her book bestowed clarity.

"I don't wish to make light of the suffering of people who experience debilitating schizophrenia," she says, "but one of the gifts of writing this book was for me to understand that we are all more alike than we realize." 🐾

Hope Endures

New novel tackles drug abuse

by Amanda Sanders

Winnipeg author Colleen Nelson tackles drug abuse and its effects in her new novel for young adults, *Finding Hope*. Alternating between the perspectives of the title character Hope and her meth-addicted brother Eric, the narrative explores how drug abuse wreaks havoc on a family.

On one hand, we have Hope, who is torn between wanting to escape Lumsville and her family troubles, and wanting to take care of Eric, whose meth addiction has left him homeless and unable to take care of himself. On the other hand, we have Eric, who has a secret shame that led him to turn to drugs, and who will do *anything* to find his next high.

Nelson is no stranger to writing from alternating perspectives, as two of her previous novels use that technique, but *Finding Hope* was not originally intended to unfold in the same way. The original novel followed only Hope.

"At one point," Nelson states, "I cut 40,000 words and basically had to start over."

It's at this stage that Eric's character was formed. "I needed to give her [Hope] reason to escape the town that she lived in, and a brother who was involved in drugs made sense."

The novel begins with Hope receiving an acceptance letter to a private school and her transition from her splintered family situation in Lumsville to navigating a new school at Ravenhurst.

Strong characters quickly engage the reader who gets to know Hope through her poems peppered throughout the novel. Coming from a troubled family dynamic where her brother's problems take front and centre, it is often difficult for the other family members to voice their feelings.

Nelson, a "closet poet" herself, saw the poems as the perfect way to express Hope's emotions. Readers learn that she is a bit of a desperate character: desperate to get out of Lumsville, desperate to help Eric, desperate for friends, and desperate to be loved.

"As for Hope," Nelson says, "I wanted to write chapters from her perspective to get inside the head

of someone who is so desperate that she makes a terrible decision with drastic ramifications."

The story follows the troubles and challenges of both characters, in events that intertwine and that happen independently to each of the siblings. Eric experiences a world full of pain and sees drugs as his release, but for Nelson, it is much more than that.

"I think the issue that is bigger than the drugs is the shame that he feels about what happened to him and his inability to divulge it. Bottling up his problems definitely led him to use drugs as an escape."

Finding Hope is a novel that shows how it is hard to lose faith and hope in those you love, even if they make terrible decisions or hurt those around them. As Nelson says, "You can love someone, even though you know

they are doing bad things to themselves and their family." 🌿

FINDING HOPE

Colleen Nelson
Dundurn

\$12.99 pb, 232 pages
ISBN: 978-1-45973-245-2



"Bottling up his problems definitely led him to use drugs as an escape."

PARTICIPACTION

Author introduces kids to different sports in new series

by Paula E. Kirman

In our modern day of video games, the Internet, and Netflix binge-watching, encouraging physical activity in children is more important than ever. *Lucy Tries Sports* is a new picture book series featuring a quirky and energetic little girl named Lucy, who tries a different sport in each book, and encourages other children to do the same.

"The goal of the main character Lucy is to encourage children to stay active while introducing them to different sports. After having a child of my own, I felt the marketplace needed some sport picture books that focused on different pursuits," says writer Lisa Bowes, a Calgary-based sports reporter, anchor, live host, announcer, and producer. Nominated for a Gemini Award while working for CBC, Bowes was also CTV's host and reporter for women's hockey at the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

In other words, Bowes knows her sports. Her broad knowledge is reflected in the choices of sports in the series thus far, which include luge and short track, and most recently, soccer.

"Luge and short track are not mainstream sports, but most children in northern climates slide and skate! Both sports recruit at age 8 and as a result, Luge Canada and Speed Skating Canada have offered tremendous support of the series," says Bowes.



LUCY TRIES SPORTS SERIES

Lisa Bowes
Illustrated by James Hearne
Orca Book Publishers
\$12.95, 32 pages each

Lucy Tries Luge

ISBN: 978-1-4598-1020-4

Lucy Tries Short Track

ISBN: 978-1-4598-1025-9

Lucy fait du patinage de vitesse

Translated by Richard Maurice and Nadia O'Brien
ISBN: 978-1-4598-1231-4

Lucy Tries Soccer

ISBN: 978-1-4598-1022-8



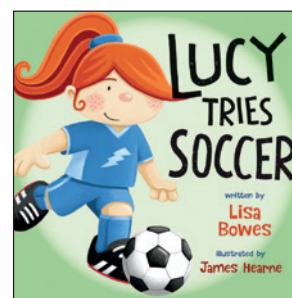
"Also, I thought it would be a neat opportunity to showcase other sports."

Illustrations by Calgary-based, internationally acclaimed illustrator and graphic designer James Hearne complement Bowes's words, and create the momentum and action of sports.

"I worked very closely with James. I told him during our first meeting that I was hoping for a sporty girl – maybe she had red hair and freckles, and she had to appeal to girls *and* boys," says Bowes, adding that seeing Hearne's concept drawing for Lucy brought her to tears.

"She basically gave me a description of a little girl who was a sporty, tomboy character, and I came up with this spunky, red-headed little girl that I felt fit that description. Luckily, she absolutely loved it, which is always a thrill when you manage to get it right," says Hearne.

Hearne's priority with the series is to ensure the accuracy of the sports depicted in the books.



"I thought it would be a neat opportunity to showcase other sports."

"While the characters are sort of fanciful and whimsical, you always have to have that sort of grain of truth. These are real sports and you have to make sure you are doing things correctly," he explains.

Bowes wants all young readers to be inspired by Lucy to stay physically active. "Lucy is a fun, relatable character that appeals to girls *and* boys, aged 3 to 7," says Bowes.

"I felt it was important to have a character that all children might like. But it's also fresh and exciting that the protagonist is a girl and it's a sports book! So, there is an empowering message here – and, perhaps it allows an opportunity for young boys to see girls in this 'space.'" 🌟

Not so scary business

Author known for frightening tales lightens up

by Shirley Byers

Sean Cummings fans are in for a surprise this time around. After six books of what he describes as “the dark and terrible” – titles such as *Shade Fright*, *Poltergeeks*, *Funeral Pallor*, and *Student Bodies* – the Saskatoon-based author has produced *To Catch a Cat Thief*, a rollicking mystery for middle years readers.

“Dear Diary,” it begins, “I’m trapped. A cloud of dust fills the street as Mom and Dad’s car disappears from sight. I’ve been dumped off at Granny’s like a bag of used clothing at a thrift store.”

Grandma Bev is a flower child. Straight out of the ’60s, she hasn’t lost one bit of her peace-loving, justice-demanding, never-trust-the-establishment attitude either.

TO CATCH A CAT THIEF

Sean Cummings
Rebelight Publishing
\$10.99 pb, 104 pages
ISBN: 978-0-99484399-0-9

Penelope loves her gran, but she wants to be doing the cool things her friends are doing. Back home there’s Outer Space, Shakespeare, and even Zombie camps. At Granny’s house there’s macrobiotic meals, macramé wall hangings, and homemade candles that smell like mouthwash.

But when she learns that cats all over town are disappearing, it doesn’t take long for her to jump into the Groovy Cruiser with Grandma Bev to hunt down the cat thief.

Cummings hints (well actually he comes right out and says it, in the dedication) that Grandma Bev is based on his own mom. That might explain a lot.

“I wanted to write something light and airy and fun. And I also wanted to see if I could do it well,” he says.

Cummings thought it would be important to let his protagonist play the straight and sensible one while her spaced out hippie grandmother could be the comic relief.

“Mostly because with my children, I had always been the spaced out, weird, and eccentric father, and they got to be the straight ones,” he says. “I always thought it made having a dad more fun for them.”

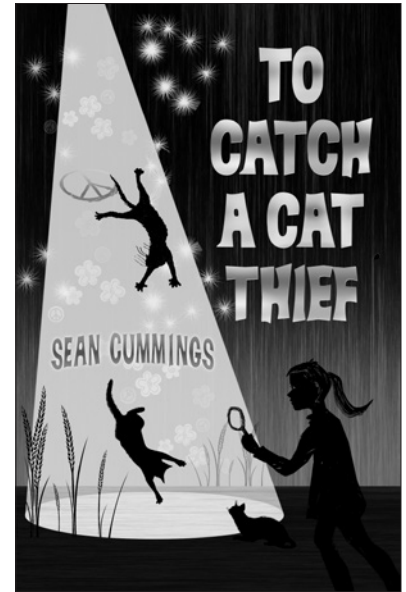
Sean Cummings has been writing since 1978.

“My Grade 5 teacher, Ms. Flowers, told me that I possessed some measure of talent and that I should keep writing. I sought her out actually, after my first book was published in 2010, and thanked her for her encouragement all those years ago,” he says. “She remembered me, as well as my stories, which I found to be pretty amazing because I can’t remember where I put my glasses half the time. I’ve been writing with the aim of getting published since 2005.”



He writes in those early morning hours that some might describe as “the witching hour,” but for purely practical reasons. “I am a morning person. I have absolutely no creative juices flowing after a long day at work, so I write from 3 a.m. until about 6 a.m. each morning when the house is silent and I can focus.” And, like most authors, Cummings has a day job.

But that won’t slow down his future writing projects. With *To Catch a Thief* done and published, his next book has him “back into the dark and terrible stuff, I’m afraid.” 🐾



MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN

PICTURE BOOKS

BUDDY AND EARL GO EXPLORING

Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Carey Sookocheff

Buddy the rule-abiding dog and Earl the adventurous hedgehog go on a trip of the imagination where they find lakes and mountains and – monsters!!

(Groundwood Books, \$16.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55498-714-6)

DO FISH FART? ANSWERS TO KIDS' QUESTIONS ABOUT LAKES

Keltie Thomas, illustrated by Deryk Ouseley

This book answers over 200 questions about freshwater lakes posed by inquisitive school kids, on topics such as fish, gooey stuff, animals, pollution, and more!

(Firefly Books, \$9.95 pb, 48 pages, with index, ISBN: 978-1-77085-727-8)

LI'L SHADD: A STORY OF UJIMA

Miriam Körner and Alix Lwanga, illustrated by Miriam Körner

This fictionalized account of the true story of the connection between Dr. Alfred Shadd and the First Nations community is based on the diary of Reginald Beatty.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$29.95 hc, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927756-48-5)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ABCs

Jocey Asnong

This energetic, bright, and accessible board book focuses on favourite animals and activities found in the Rocky Mountains.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$12 board book, 28 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-163-4)

SNAP!

Hazel Hutchins, illustrated by Dušan Petričić
Evan has a new box of crayons, but after some of them snap, break, and get crushed, he discovers

that he can still make exciting art with the tools he has in this colourful, exuberant story.

(Annick Press, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55451-770-1)

EARLY YEARS

JUSTINE MCKEEN, BOTTLE THROTTLE

Sigmund Brouwer, illustrated by Dave Whamond

Junior environmentalist Justine McKeen is worried about what plastic bottles are doing to the environment and her classmates, so she's determined to ban bottled water school-wide. Includes ideas for science projects and notes for students and teachers. (Orca, \$6.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-0731-0)

SALAMANDER RESCUE

Pamela McDowell, illustrated by Kasia Charko

Cricket is happy to discover long-toed salamanders in her hometown, but she's worried that the salamanders are having trouble migrating across the road to their hibernation grounds, so she and her friends try to find a solution to their dilemma, in this follow-up to *Ospreys in Danger*.

(Orca, \$6.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-1123-2)

MIDDLE YEARS

BROKEN STONE

Gabriele Goldstone

In this sequel to *Red Stone*, Katya and her remaining siblings have been saved from the gulag in Siberia, but must now leave their fugitive father behind as they escape Stalin's Five-Year-Plan in the Soviet Union and flee to East Prussia to live with relatives they've never met. (Rebelight, \$12.99 pb, 162 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9948399-2-3)

DOOR INTO FAERIE, THE SHARDS OF EXCALIBUR, BOOK 5

Edward Willett

In the climactic fifth book in The Shards of Excalibur series, Ariane and Wally must reforge the sword of Excalibur to defeat Merlin,

but doing so could unleash something neither of them is strong enough to handle, as the long-closed door into Faerie swings wide open. (Coteau, \$14.95 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55050-654-9)

YOUNG ADULT

CONVICTIONS

Judith Silverthorne

This historical novel is about a teenage girl who finds herself on a women-only convict ship headed to Australia, where the women must learn to work together to battle the jailers, the ship, and the sea if they are to survive.

(Coteau Books, \$16.95 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55050-652-5)

GATEKEEPER

Natasha Deen

This sequel to *Guardian* combines horror and mystery as Maggie Johnson and her soul brother Serge Popov investigate the death of Kent Thomas, every parent's dream, the kind of good kid never in trouble, friend to all, and the least likely guy to be murdered.

(Great Plains Publications, \$14.95 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927855-39-3)

HANNAH BOTH WAYS

Rosie Greenway

After a Twitter prank turns Hannah into the high school's best bad joke, she takes refuge in the library, where a persistent new student, Lucas, invades her space.

(Rebelight, \$14.99 pb, 226 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9948399-4-7)

ODD ONE OUT

Betty Jane Hegerat

Roof thought all he had to worry about was how to get his skateboard back from the principal, how to avoid a French immersion trip to Quebec, and how to impress Zoe. Then Amelia shows up, and his world is shaken in ways he could never have imagined.

(Oolichan Books, \$14.95 pb, 136 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88982-305-1)

RODENT

Lisa J. Lawrence

Isabelle has a lousy job, an alcoholic mother, and two younger sisters to look after. She wonders how her life could get worse in this YA novel that combines hard realism with razor-sharp humour.

(Orca, \$14.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-0976-5)

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QUENTIN MILLS-FENN reads and writes, mainly about books, in Winnipeg.

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BOOKENDS

Prairie books NOW values your feedback. Please send your comments to pbn@mts.net.

On the cover

Our cover illustration is by Kimberly McKay, from Edgar Danny Desjarlais's *I Don't Like Bugs*, courtesy of Pemmican Publications, our featured publisher this issue (page 24).

Sorry for the delay...

This issue of *Prairie books NOW* is out a bit late due to an emergency health situation. Rest assured all is well now and the Fall/Winter 2016 issue will be released as scheduled.

Wondering how to order?

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

spooky stunning stormy spring

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