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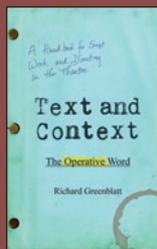
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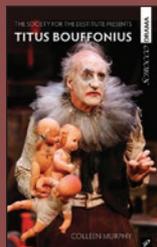
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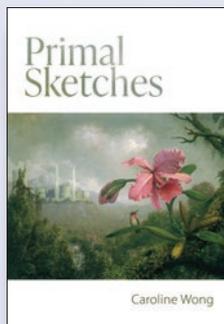
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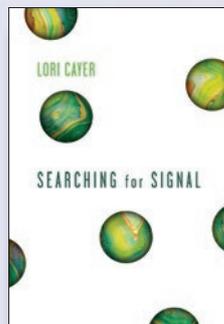
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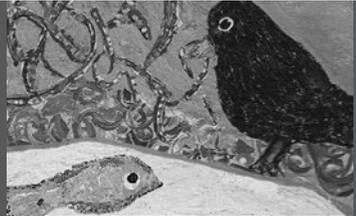
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by Margaret Anne Fehr

JUDE AND DIANA

Sharon Robart-Johnson

Roseway-Fernwood Publishing

\$30.95 pb, 316 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77363-441-8

Canadian Confederation was scarcely a concept in the late 18th century when the effects of the American Revolution triggered a migration of Loyalists to Nova Scotia. With them, they brought their families, their values, and their chattel – which included Black slaves.

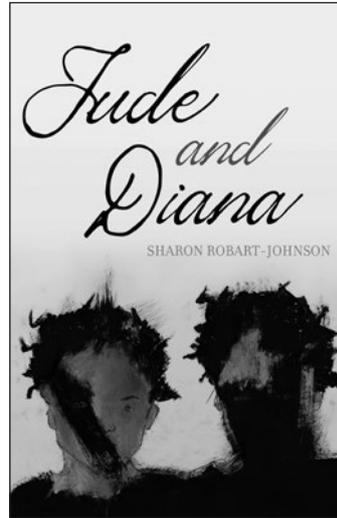
Before writing a fictional account of this era, Sharon Robart-Johnson, a 13th-generation African Nova Scotian and researcher of slavery, had been working on her history book, *Africa's Children: A History of Blacks in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia*. Her meticulous research uncovered the story of a slave named Jude who died at the hands of her owners and the sensational trial that followed.

“When I first discovered those court records and read every single word, I can’t begin to tell you how angry I was,” Robart-Johnson says. “I was as ignorant as the next person as to what went on in our little town.”

She knew then that she would have to try to tell Jude’s story – what her life may have been like before she became the property of Major Andrews (Anderson in the novel) and his family. Because court records state that Diana was her sister, Robart-Johnson also needed to include what her life would have been like. Because there was no information about Jude other than her death and the trial, another history book was out of the question.

“Therefore,” says Robart-Johnson, “I combined as much fact as there was with fiction and wrote a novel.”

Jude and Diana opens with a note from Roseway Publishing that highlights the collaborative nature of the



editorial process. The publisher notes that the novel contains references and language – “the N-word and other racist language colloquial to the time” – that raises ethical considerations.

The publisher also states, “we believe the author has the right . . . to historical accuracy – inasmuch as that is possible, considering white colonizers deemed

Black lives unnecessary to document.” The explanation goes on to describe how the publisher and Robart-Johnson worked together to mitigate any harm such words might cause.

Robart-Johnson had already researched how slaves spoke when she first decided to write the novel, having come across 17 volumes of narratives of slaves from Alabama to Virginia.

“Some of their narrative was extremely hard to read,” she says. “Therefore, I chose to use the words of some of the slaves that anyone who read my book would be able to read. My editor wanted to keep it as authentic as possible.” The book includes reference information about where those slave narratives can be found.

Robart-Johnson wants people to read what happened to Jude and “to be as outraged as I was by the fact that her killers got away with murder despite the overwhelming evidence given in the testimonies of Yarmouth’s coroner, Nehemiah Porter, and Yarmouth’s surgeon, Dr. Joseph Norman Bond.”

Robart-Johnson wants readers to question how that great injustice could have happened.

“I also want them to feel compassion for these two young women whose lives ended in such a heinous way,” she says.

“Jude and Diana may be gone, but their voices will ring loud and clear with my book.”



Sharon Robart-Johnson

Short story collection challenges everyday reality, comfort levels

Patricia Robertson's stories have sharp political edges

by Margaret Goldik

HOUR OF THE CRAB

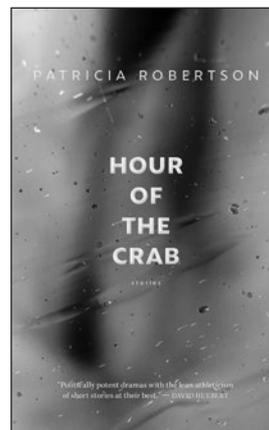
Patricia Robertson

Goose Lane Editions

\$22.95 pb, 246 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77310-160-6

Available as an ebook



Winnipeg author Patricia Robertson's third collection of short stories, *Hour of the Crab*, challenges readers to re-evaluate their ideas of everyday reality.

In the story “Speaking in Tongues,” a grandmother and her grandson find strange messages appearing written into their skin. Then snail shells, *Littorina obtusata*, appear – Atlantic shells on the Pacific coast. The children accept the strange portents and new reality with equanimity. Perhaps they have an insight into a different future, one which most of us cannot fathom?

“I’m pretty sure that Babs, the elderly protagonist in that story, thinks so, once she comes to terms with what the children are experiencing, even though she doesn’t really understand it,” says Robertson. “It’s an act of faith on her part. She’s imprisoned, as we all are, by consensual reality, and is granted a glimpse of what might lie beyond it through her grandson and his friends.”

Robertson also challenges our comfort level about climate change in “Fire Breathing.” Ty, a firefighter in Burnaby, understands that fires are now different, out of control. He

tries to make the world safe: “It was safe, for now. Safe for as long as he and his kind did what they were trained to do – hold back the wall of flame from the world.”

Although the story is set a decade in the future, Robertson sounds an alarm for the present. She says, “I’m not a climate scientist. But based on everything I’ve read and on reports from friends in B.C., we’re going to see more of what we’re seeing now – fire seasons becoming ever longer and more intense, fire behaviour that’s increasingly unpredictable, firefighters with decades of experience who are saying, with monotonous regularity, ‘I’ve never seen fires like this before.’ I don’t really think of the fires in the story as dystopian. We’re already there.”

Robertson’s prose is faultless, imbued with breathtaking imagery. Many of the stories involve a sense of otherworldliness, capturing the wonder of the world beyond the “consensual reality.”



Patricia Robertson

THORAITKENHEAD

A few of the protagonists in the stories have visionary experiences. In “Hour of the Crab,” Kate, a tourist in Spain, finds the body of a drowned migrant. The young man haunts her, and she is compelled to find his family.

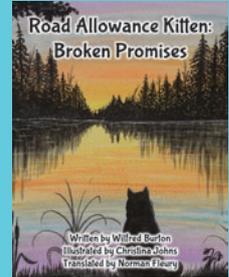
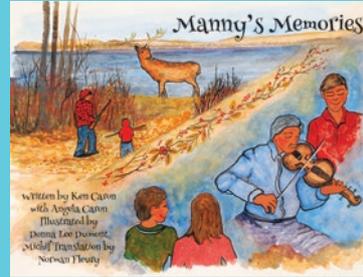
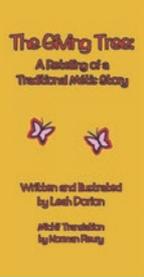
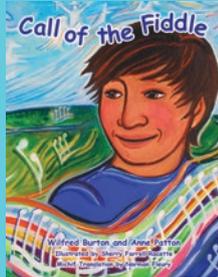
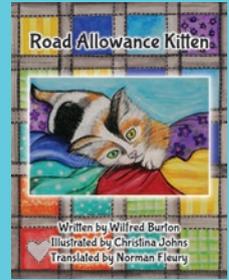
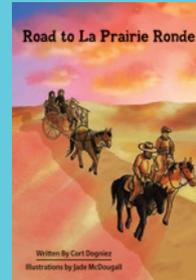
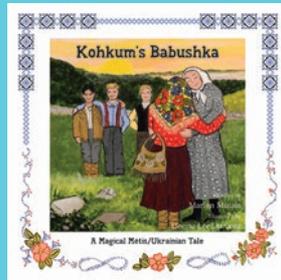
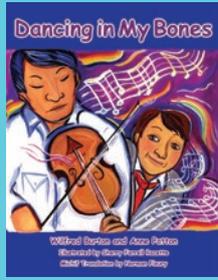
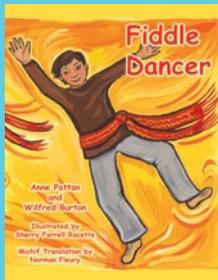
In “The Oud-Maker’s Son,” Nicolas is also haunted, experiencing memories and voices from another life as a North African or Middle Eastern migrant. Robertson remarks, “Both Kate and Nicolas are bearing a burden, one the rest of the world has for the most part refused.”

These stories have sharp political edges: Robertson won’t let readers look away.

“I’m in a constant rage about our global treatment of undocumented migrants,” she says. “It’s unconscionable. I ask my students if they know what the global resettlement rate is for such people. It’s less than one percent. In 2018, according to the UN, Canada took in more refugees than any other country – a grand total of 23,100 people. We’re one of the world’s wealthiest, safest countries.

“We ought to be ashamed.” 🌿

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New Spring Titles From **NEWEST PRESS**

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DOMINION OF MERCY

By Danial Neil

When wayward and headstrong Mary Stewart is exiled from Scotland to Anyox, B.C. after a family scandal, what she finds in the frontier town will shake her as much as her duties as a war nurse...

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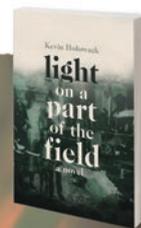


A BRIEF VIEW FROM THE COASTAL SUITE

By Karen Hofmann

Vancouver, 2008: The Lund family make their way through relationships, money, and environment —markers for a materialistic, inhospitable society.

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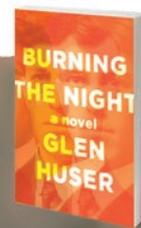


LIGHT ON A PART OF THE FIELD

By Kevin Holowack

This novel of finely observed vignettes introduces us to a mid-century family grappling with artistic ambition, mental illness, and rifts that may not be possible to mend.

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BURNING THE NIGHT

By Glen Huser

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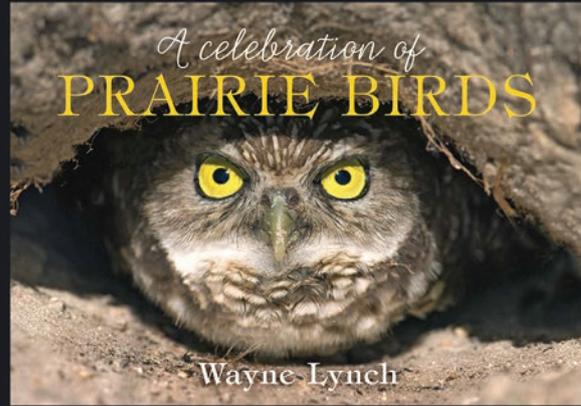
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Dr. Wayne Lynch has been a full-time natural history writer and photographer for over 40 years.



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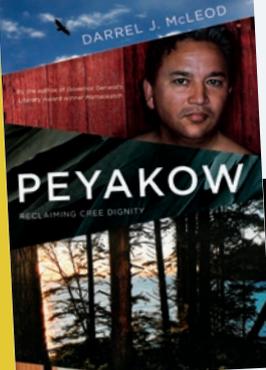


978-1-92708-357-4 | \$39.95 (pb)



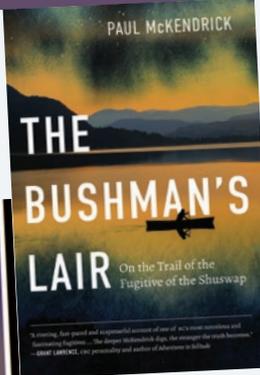
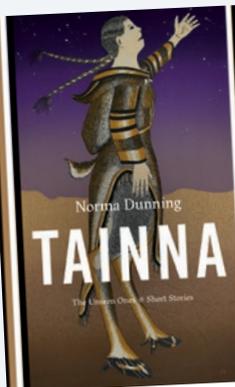
At a time when birdlife is disappearing in the prairies faster than in any other avian habitat in North America, *A Celebration of Prairie Birds* is a poignant reminder of what we can lose if we fail to value it.

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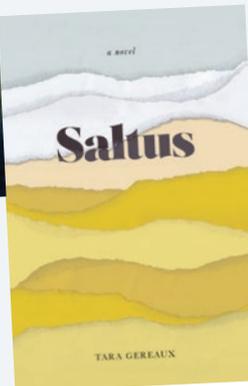
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What is a life well lived? Anthology seeks the answer

Speculative fiction stories and poems serve as a collection of moments

by Ian Goodwillie

SEASONS BETWEEN US:

Tales of Identities and Memories

Laksa Anthology Series: Speculative Fiction

Edited by Susan Forest and Lucas K. Law

Laksa Media Group

\$22.00 pb, 360 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988140-17-9

Available as an ebook

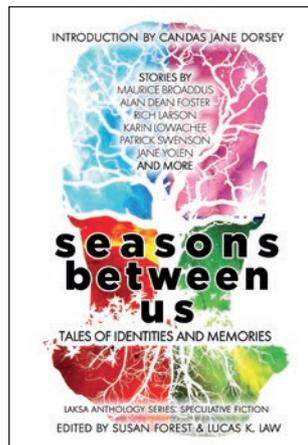
From the moment you are born, you never stop aging. But what does it mean to grow older? That conversation is at the core of the new anthology *Seasons Between Us: Tales of Identities and Memories*.

Edited by Susan Forest and Lucas K. Law, the collection attempts to answer the only question that really matters: What is a life well lived?

This anthology is filled with stories (and a couple of poems) from 23 speculative fiction writers, exploring different ages and stages of life. According to Forest, “The underpinning idea unifying the stories in *Seasons Between Us* is that the journey of self-examination and the redefinitions each of us makes throughout our lifetimes (‘aging,’ if you will) is a form of boundary-crossing.”

Each story is, in essence, a collection of moments. Forest says about the stories, “Sometimes these boundaries are momentous, and sometimes they may seem inconsequential; but in each of the stories, the author found a moment in a character’s life that was defining.”

Law echoes that sentiment when talking about the inspiration for the anthology. “Anticipation, combining with fear and wonder, about the subject matter is the inspiration behind this anthology. Growing older has been a fascinating subject since I was a little kid.”



According to Law, the anthology went through some growing pains of its own. This came into focus for both him and Forest as they considered *Seasons Between Us* in the context of the series of Laksa Media anthologies, which includes *Strangers Among Us*, *The Sum of Us*, and *Shades Within Us* – which also focus on themes around identity, such as migration and being an outsider.



Lucas K. Law

“Originally, this anthology was supposed to deal with the pros and cons of growing old,” says Law. “After much contemplation, Susan and I realized this anthology is a natural progression from our previous anthologies; the migration, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual, is the key that connects the series.”

Included in this collection are stories of family relationships, love, memory, and grief, with some magic, hybrid beings, alternate worlds, and futuristic settings in the mix. The complexity of aging was reflected in the submissions. “We received a wonderful, very rich array of stories we were pleased to include in the anthology,” says Forest.

Law further notes, “Aging may be a broad subject, but all of us experience it every day. It is a process where each of us has to manage our expectations, wants, needs, ambitions, successes, failures, regrets, et cetera. It is what makes us human.”

The tales in *Seasons Between Us* are relatable to virtually anyone, as everyone ages. Characters in different seasons of their life interact with other generations, providing a variety of perspectives.

Forest expands on those ideas when talking about what she thinks readers will get from this anthology.

“I’m hopeful readers will see the nuances of diverse experience,” she says.

“Although speculative, all the stories are fully relatable to the human condition, and yet each finds that moment, that small nub, that lens through which experience is filtered in ways that illuminate both our uniquenesses and our commonalities.”

MORE FICTION

SHORT FICTION & NOVELLAS

SIGNAL DECAY

Keith Cadieux

Tim died, leaving Lori with a lot of expensive recording equipment and huge debts. Lori can't bring herself to sell the equipment and move on, not while she can hear Tim's laugh on the recordings. But then she begins to hear his laugh when it shouldn't be there – can love transcend death?

(At Bay Press, \$6.95 pb, 48 pages, with 4 half-tone plates, ISBN: 978-1-988168-48-7, available as ebook)

STATUS UPDATE

George Toles (text) and Cliff Eyland (illustrations)

Since 2009, Toles has been posting a creative work of microfiction on Facebook. Eyland took up the challenge of illustrating over 1000 of these.

George Toles has selected 99 of these pairings, demonstrating the range of their imaginations. These works explore the humour, melancholy, spontaneity, empathy, messiness, and raunchiness of life, death, sex, loss, personal failure, and human interaction.

(At Bay Press, \$28.95 pb, 120 pages, full colour throughout, ISBN: 978-1-988168-37-1, available as ebook)

UNLOCKING

Amy LeBlanc

Louise Till, undergoing an adjustment to the single life after her divorce, is blackmailed by Euphemia Rosenbaum, who knows everyone's secrets (including

Louise's) in their small Alberta town, and investigates a possible murder in this quirky novella that explores grief and community.

(University of Calgary Press, \$19.99 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-139-6, available as ebook)

NOVELS

THE ANCIENT DEAD

Barbara Fradkin

Photographer Todd Ellison, during a shoot in Alberta's dinosaur country, discovers human bones buried in a remote coulee. Amanda Doucette connects her uncle's disappearance 30 years ago to the bones, but someone is trying very hard to get her to abandon the investigation.

(Dundurn, \$19.99 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4597-4381-6, available as ebook)

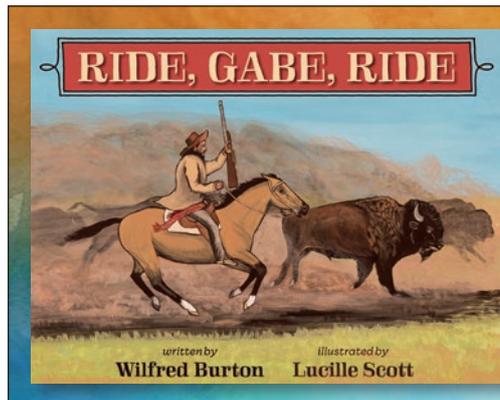
AND THEN IS HEARD NO MORE

Raye Anderson

This second Roxanne Calloway Mystery sees Roxanne called in to investigate the murder of the Prairie Theatre Centre's artistic director, whose body was found in the trunk of his car just outside of Winnipeg's city limits. When a second body is found in a city park, Roxanne has to work with the cynical Detective Sergeant Cooper Jenkins of the Winnipeg police. Sorting out fact from fiction is not easy in the world of theatre and convincing actors.

(Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-88-6, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Ride, Gabe, Ride

Wilfred Burton & Lucille Scott

Ride across the plains with GABRIEL DUMONT! Based on historic events, *Ride, Gabe, Ride!* tells the tale of a dangerous, exhilarating hunt led by famed Métis buffalo hunter, Gabriel Dumont. Contains glossary of Michif and English words.

978-1-988783-68-0

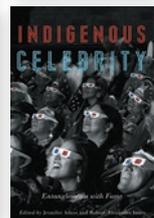
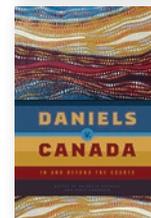
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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PRESS

Master's thesis spins into 70 stories of Jewishness

Project turned into outpouring of stories for Sarah Mintz

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

HANDWRINGERS

Sarah Mintz

Radiant Press

\$20.00 pb, 152 pages

ISBN: 978-1-98927-447-7

Available as an ebook



Sarah Mintz

faces in visuals. However, the results did not turn out as expected; in Glenn's words, "a good deal of hand-writing ensued."

Mintz explains, "I suppose the sort of anxiety generated by the study felt in line with the generalized anxiety of the collection – an anxiety that circles the same material: Jewishness, assimilation, identity, irresolvable questions, and contradictory answers." Hence the title *handwriters*.

Replete with nervous characters, who span multiple generations from children to the elderly, the stories capture the crescendo of tension in the rhythms of the narrators' voices. "In fact," states Mintz, "the stories weave in and out through time, beginning with a grandmother and ending with Internet technology."

Everything is fair game as a source of inspiration. "Skinning the Cat" is a retelling of the birth of Isaac. "Whatever Larry's Looking For" is based on a Hebrew National hot dog commercial. Other tales revolve around Jewish holidays and the synagogue.

Readers who like the comedic styles of Jerry Seinfeld, Woody Allen, and Larry David are likely to enjoy the humour and quirkiness of these stories.

Mintz claims that the stories are largely not autobiographical, but are something between truth and fiction.

"It's the fiction that makes things true," she says. "Truth is never believed anyway. You lie with enough sparkle, you get it true." ✨

"I love flash fiction!" says author Sarah Mintz about the genre of her debut short fiction collection, *handwriters*. "In my mind, flash fiction operates like comic books or graffiti, sitcoms or pop songs – little indulgent pieces of pop culture, memes maybe."

Accordingly, the book consists of over 70 very short stories, the shortest one a mere few sentences, the longest less than five pages.

A self-described "Canadian nomad," Mintz lived in Moose Jaw for five years before moving to Regina where she recently completed her master of arts degree. She now resides in Victoria, British Columbia.

Most of the stories in her collection began as the substance of her MA thesis. The subject was "mediated Jewish identity," that is, aspects of her culture as depicted in popular media, such as TV and film. The focus of the project also encompassed "an ongoing reference to the *schlemiel*," a pejorative Yiddish word that means "a loser."

In fact, the epigraph in Mintz's collection includes a line uttered by the well-known TV character George

Costanza, who is a prime example of a schlemiel.

Initially, Mintz's thesis project involved a lot of investigation. "Once my proposal was written, I began research for the project: schlemiel history and theory, Jewish folklore, Jewish stereotypes, and critical thought on short stories and flash fiction," she says. "The research gave me parameters within which I could wait for inspiration."

The result was an outpouring of stories. "I wrote a hundred that didn't make the collection, so it was a productive period," she says.

The research also provided the title for her collection, which comes from an essay by Susan A. Glenn about Jewish appearances. Within the essay, Glenn referred to a 1946 study based on three groups of people asked to identify Jewish



BOOTLEG STARDUST

Glenn Dixon

In the rock and roll world of 1974, inexperienced, talented, and ambitious Levi Jaxon joins the band Downtown Exit – who are recording in London’s famous Abbey Road Studios – under unusual circumstances that get more and more difficult (and even dangerous) to navigate. Levi learns about the world and himself in this exhilarating debut novel about finding one’s voice.

(Simon & Schuster, \$24.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9821-4465-4, available as ebook)

A BRIEF VIEW FROM THE COASTAL SUITE

Karen Hofmann

This sequel to *What Is Going to Happen Next* sees the Lund siblings reunited in the economically turbulent Vancouver of 2008. Cleo, an architectural designer and mother; Mandalay, an artist and single mother of twins; and Cliff and Ben, who run a landscape company together, differ widely in their values with respect to money, relationships, and the environment.

(NeWest Press, \$21.95 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-017-7, available as ebook)

BURNING THE NIGHT

Glen Huser

Curtis, the narrator of this coming-of-age novel set largely in Alberta, tells how he develops a bond with his blind Aunt Harriet, as they share a passion for art and literature and a belief in the power of love. Harriet’s influence stays with Curtis as he becomes a teacher, practises his art, and comes into his own as a gay man.

(NeWest Press, \$19.95 pb, 234 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-011-5, available as ebook)

A DEADLY THAW: THE YORK FACTORY CONNECTION

Frederick Ross

Inspired by his interest in infectious disease, local history, and his work as a physician, Ross creates a chilling story about the unexpected return of smallpox, which was presumed eradicated in 1977. Rachel Thompson and her research team discover a Hudson’s Bay blanket when they disinter a grave in York Factory and fall ill – could the melting permafrost be releasing the deadly contagion?

(FriesenPress, 288 pages, \$24.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-5255-1825-7; \$17.49 pb, ISBN: 978-1-5255-1826-3; available as ebook)

THE DETECTIVE AND THE SPY, A PORTIA ADAMS ADVENTURE

Angela Misri

This fourth book in the series opens with a bang – at a crime scene in London in 1935, a bomb explodes, leaving Portia deafened and able to speak only gibberish. This drastically affects her ability to investigate (in the tradition of her grandfathers, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson), and on top of everything, a spymaster believes she is involved in the bombing.

(Cormorant Books, \$22.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-580-8, available as ebook)

DOMINION OF MERCY

Danial Neil

Set in 1917, with the First World War in the background, this novel follows 18-year-old Mary Stewart, who escapes a life of poverty and prostitution in Edinburgh to nurse injured soldiers in Anyox, British Columbia, hoping that her uncle will look after her younger sister as he promised to. She discovers that it is not so easy to escape her past, however.

(NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-020-7, available as ebook)

FAKE IT SO REAL

Susan Sanford Blades

In raw and unafraid voices, this novel tells the stories of Gwen, abandoned by Damian, the leader of an ‘80s punk band, and her two daughters, Sara and Meg, over the course of almost four decades, as they attempt to find their ways through an inhospitable world.

(Nightwood Editions, \$21.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-388-8, available as ebook)

THE FINDER

Will Ferguson

This caper about the people, places, and objects that are lost and found crosses continents from southern Japan to the Australian Outback to Christchurch, New Zealand, following Gaddy Rhodes, the Interpol agent tracking The Finder, who is collecting valuable lost objects. Their paths also cross those of Tom Rafferty, a jaded travel writer, and Tamsin Greene, a war photographer.

(Simon & Schuster, \$24.99 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9821-3969-8, available as ebook)

THE GOOD SON

Carolyn Huizinga Mills

This psychological thriller gets under the reader’s skin, following Zoe and her relationship with her brother and significant others as she deals with the aftermath of witnessing the abduction of her six-year-old neighbour. The secret she has kept for 30 years may be revealed when the murder case is reopened.

(Cormorant Books, \$24.95 pb, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-592-1, available as ebook)

LAND TITLE: A NOVEL OF THE PRAIRIES

Terry Dann

This sprawling historical novel follows Harry and Violet who leave the East to establish a farm in Manitoba; Howahkan, a Dakota boy who moves from Minnesota to a reserve in western Manitoba, and who spends his youth in a residential school; and Angus, a wealthy and spoiled young man whose father sends him west with a remittance. Their lives slowly converge as they live through the Great War and the Spanish flu epidemic.

(Terry Dann, \$21.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 979-8582453079, available as ebook)

LIGHT ON A PART OF THE FIELD

Kevin Holowack

Set in British Columbia in the 1960s and ‘70s, this debut novel introduces a family trying to maintain artistic practices and loving connections despite profound rifts. At the centre is Ruth, a painter, whose poet husband disappeared, leaving her a farm. When her oldest daughter, Gayle, leaves to follow a young drifter to Edmonton, Ruth’s art may not be enough to keep her going.

(NeWest Press, \$21.95 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-014-6, available as ebook)

OMAND’S CREEK

Don Macdonald

This debut crime novel opens with a young woman’s body found on the bank of Omand’s Creek in Winnipeg. While Detective Michael Shelter looks for a killer preying on Indigenous women, he uncovers a trail of corruption, racist violence, and long-held secrets, all while struggling to raise his teenage daughter on his own.

(Cordova Publishing, \$21.99 pb, 270 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7773629-0-4, available as ebook)

RAFT BABY**Bonnie Dunlop**

Framed by the story of Lily in an Alberta nursing home in the mid-1990s, this historical novel tells of her beginnings, how as a baby she was set to drift on a raft on the Peace River and rescued by Trapper Jackson John, husband to Annie and brother-in-law to Edward and Isabelle, all of whom came west in the late 1800s looking for opportunity in the land of fur and gold.

(ThistleDown Press, \$20.00 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-202-7, available as ebook)

THE RENTER**Michael Tregebov**

This fourth instalment in Tregebov's *comédie humaine* Winnipeg-style tells the story of 20-year-old Bret Yeatman, who, in the summer of 1968, uses his earnings from selling pot to revisit the best time of his childhood by renting a cottage at Winnipeg Beach, where he decides to "marry up" rather than rely on his drug sales to regain the social position his father lost.

(New Star Books, \$18.00 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55420-163-1)

SATELLITE LOVE**Genki Ferguson**

Set in a desolate Japanese city in 1999, this magical novel about alienation, faith, and the need for connection is told from various perspectives: 16-year-old Anna, who prefers the company of an old blind military man in a seniors' home and that of a satellite to that of her classmates; Soki, who is new to Anna's class and the city, bringing fresh possibilities; and Leo, the Low Earth Orbit satellite, who loves Anna and contemplates the meaning of its existence.

(McClelland & Stewart, \$24.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-4987-3, available as ebook)

THE SAVAGE INSTINCT**M. M. DeLuca**

In this Victorian psychological thriller, Clara is released from an asylum for the insane to join her husband Henry in their new home in Durham, England. On the way, they encounter Mary Ann Cotton, the woman accused of poisoning 20 people including many of her children, and this chance meeting leads to a life-changing relationship.

(Inkshares, \$22.99 pb, 380 pages, ISBN: 978-1-947848-67-2, available as ebook)

SO MANY WINDINGS**Catherine Macdonald**

The second novel in Macdonald's Charles Lauchlan Mystery series, following her award-winning *Put on the Armour of Light*, is set in Scotland. Charles and his fiancée, Maggie, while on a bicycle tour of the highlands, encounter not just bad weather but near fatal accidents – and then they discover evidence of a murder.

(At Bay Press, \$28.95 hc, 324 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-46-3, available as ebook and audio book)

SPECTRAL LIVING**Andrea King**

Marion, devoted to her research of ghosts in Québécois literature, finds herself literally haunted after she begins an affair with her professor, Rémy. Rémy, realizing he is putting his career and relationship with his fiancée at risk, revives his dream of becoming a writer. This provocative and funny story explores the tensions between worlds: between the academic and artistic, and between the living and the dead.

(University of Calgary Press, \$27.99 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-147-1, available as ebook)

THE STRANGERS OF**BRAAMFONTEIN****Onyeka Nwelu**

Osas is a young and impressionable Nigerian painter who escapes poverty and hardship in Benin City by relocating to Braamfontein, a suburb of Johannesburg, where, in order to survive, he must live a life of spontaneity and criminality among drug dealers, assassins, prostitutes, scammers, cultists, human traffickers, forgers, gangs, and more.

(Griots Lounge, \$ 26.69 pb, 220 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7772756-5-5)

THREADER ORIGINS, BOOK ONE OF THE QUANTUM EMPIRICA**Gerald Brandt**

This new science fiction series opens with Darwin pulled into an alternate world, where he is a Threader, one of the few people who can see the Threads – quantum strings that can be manipulated to control reality.

He is torn between finding his way back to his world and staying in this one where he discovers the family and love he'd never had.

(DAW Books, \$36.00 hc, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7564-1637-9)

THE WILLOW WREN**Philipp Schott**

In this historical novel based on the life of the author's father and grandfather, young Ludwig is growing up in Hitler's Germany. Ludwig's father is a senior Nazi and true believer, and Ludwig, after his father is presumed dead, must rally his despondent mother and his younger siblings to attempt an escape from Russian occupation before it is too late.

(ECW Press, \$22.95 pb, 354 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-573-7, available as ebook)

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Playfulness and wit woven with self-deprecation, and a call to action

Colin Smith examines typos, chronic illness, and the Winnipeg General Strike

by Steve Locke

PERMANENT CARNIVAL TIME

Colin Smith

ARP Books

\$18.00 pb, 120 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927886-45-8

Available as an ebook

We are made of language and we live in time, and time is nothing but flow,” says Colin Smith, the Winnipeg-based author of the new poetry collection *Permanent Carnival Time*.

A longtime card-carrying language poet, Smith revels in the freedom to play with form and constraint as he wrests individually permanent lines into text where, as he says, “the idea is key and the writing is all just raw potentiality towards – crossed fingers – an engaging poem.”

Infused throughout the collection is Smith’s characteristic playfulness and brilliant, wry wit, such as in the “Folly Suite,” which contains poems structured around print media typos such as a correction in a Vice Media article that originally stated, “Pasolini was eaten to death.” Smith says this “accident as suite” commentary is “intended to show off, in perverse ways, things that should be taken seriously but aren’t, and things that shouldn’t, but are.”

In “Essaying Fun,” a name for a perfume called Exquisite Corpse is pitched among a rapid-fire list of clever one-liners and non-sequiturs. Smith says the poem’s title deconstructs the word *essay* to uncover a root meaning that “speaks to a process of meandering, rather than the programmatic way we’ve been taught through numerous levels of our schooling.”

It acts as a purposeful titular counterpoint to “Essaying Pain,” the poem he describes as a “claustrophobic portrait of significant darkness.”

In this portrayal of limitation and what it costs to suffer chronic and catastrophic pain, Smith breaks a personal

rule and places his voice at the forefront, sharing actual MRI reports and disturbingly honest thoughts on living with his degenerative spinal condition.

Despite the tone, Smith weaves in lines that are darkly funny and self-deprecating, if not therapeutic. Smith says he puts a lot of stock into humour and truth, both of which reflect the homeopathic model of “taking a distillation of something that would otherwise make you sick, to make you feel better.”

He says, “If there are secrets to be exposed, expose them. If there are abusive systems of power to be called out, call them out. Put it all on the table. See what there is. Make fun of what needs to be made fun of. Give it the abuse or the love that it so righteously deserves.”

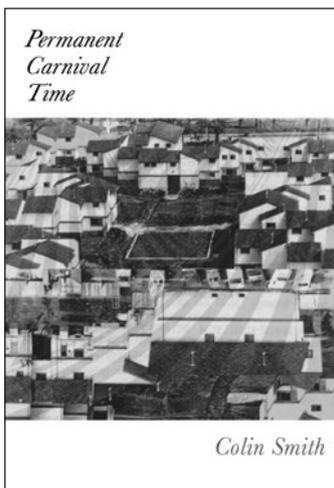
This personal and artistic philosophy particularly resonates in “Necessities for the Whole Hog,” with the opening line “Because 100 years of capitalism is *more* than enough.” In this superimposed portrait of Winnipeg between the General Strike of 1919 and the time of writing the poem in 2019, history remains relevant in the mind-shaking experience of the present day.

As the outcomes of the pandemic have further revealed the brutal inequalities in our society, Smith calls on us to reflect back to how labourers managed to shock the government system despite the strike being broken.

“As a failed event [the General Strike] can and maybe should be seen as a partial success,” he says, “and its partiality is something we need to go back to, to improve on, and repeat, repeat, repeat.” 🌿



Colin Smith



Collection marks moment poet moved hobby to centre stage

Nisha Patel hopes to help South Asian writers speak their truths

by Ariel Gordon

COCONUT

Nisha Patel

NeWest Press

\$19.95 pb, 100 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77439-023-8

Available as an ebook

Life changed for Edmonton spoken word poet Nisha Patel when she quit her day job.

“When I worked as a political advisor, I worked exactly 35 hours a week and did poetry on the side as a hobby,” says Patel.

“Now, as a performing artist, published author, publisher, and community organizer, I’m lucky to take an evening off a week. Balance is something I am trying really hard to find, but my drive to create, perform, and teach (and also keep the lights on in my house) has really motivated me to push myself right now, at this moment in my life.”

The poems that came out of the year after she quit became the backbone of her debut collection, *Coconut*.

“I want *Coconut* to be a slice of my life, a marker in time, to measure how I grew as an artist from my start in the community to this debut,” says Patel.

“I don’t need it to impress, but I do hope it has an impact on young and emerging South Asian writers or writers speaking from places of being oppressed and marginalized to help them realize their own capacity of speaking their truth in the face of violence, power, and discrimination.”

As a queer Indo-Canadian writer, Patel hopes that her debut holds other lessons for her peers and for the writers coming up behind her.

“I also want this book to teach writers that we can pursue the subjects most important to us, whether that

means writing about love, nature, or politics, and how doing so still makes our stories South Asian stories,” Patel says.

Working with Jenna Butler was a new experience for Patel, who’d never had concentrated, one-on-one time with an editor before.

“I’d always learned from many individuals in community, but having someone like Jenna look at my individual word choices, and do line-by-line edits, that was something I’ve been lacking in my entire time as a poet,” Patel says.

“And Jenna, because we come from communities that are diverse and marginalized, understood all my words even when they weren’t in English – which is a huge gift for an emerging writer, knowing that someone who needs to hear you is listening.”

Patel is currently Edmonton’s Poet Laureate

and the executive director of the Edmonton Poetry Festival, so launching *Coconut* is only one of the tasks on her to-do list.

“I think if I work hard enough while I’m emerging as a writer I’ll eventually be able to take a step back and focus more intentionally on my work,” Patel says. “But it’s too difficult to say no to the opportunities that come my way, so I just try to do everything at once. It’s chaos.”

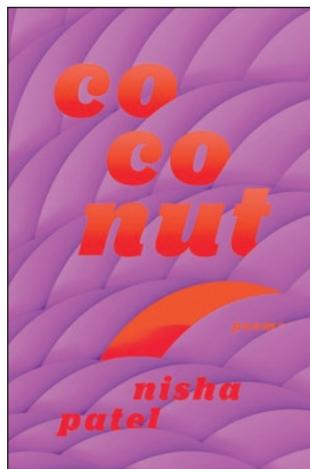
Not saying no seems like a good plan, given that she’ll be the Edmonton Public Library’s regional writer-in-residence for 2021.

But Patel is looking forward to seeing the poems that make up *Coconut* in print.

“Putting them out is a way for me to say goodbye to them,” she says, “and now allows me to move into projects that will challenge me to continue to grow.”



Nisha Patel



MORE POETRY

THE BAD WIFE

Micheline Maylor

With wild wit and wisdom, these poems tell the story of a marriage gone wrong – from “How to Become a Bad Wife,” detailing with sharp and disarming humour how sweetness can become dark, to the long poem “Omen: Calla Lilies,” which is heartbreaking in its honesty, exploring just what we are capable of. (University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 84 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-548-1, available as ebook)

BLACK MATTERS

Afua Cooper, photographs by Wilfried Raussert

Cooper translates Raussert’s photographs focused on everyday Black experiences into poetry, creating an image of what historical facts might look like when embodied in contemporary characters – the overall effect is of a dialogue between

image and text that amplifies Black beauty and offers audible resistance. (Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$20.00 pb, 84 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-295-7, available as ebook)

THE CYBORG ANTHOLOGY

Lindsay B-e

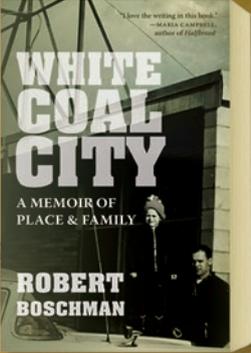
This inventive anthology of Cyborg poetry from a future post-apocalyptic time is a playful and satirical debut collection. A preface describing the history of Cyborg poetry together with samples of a range of poems and biographies of the poets tell the story of a complex culture, where Cyborgs struggle to gain liberation and a sense of identity.

(Brick Books, \$20.00 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77131-530-2, available as ebook)

EX NIHIL

E. D. Blodgett and J.R. Léveillé

From the time of their meeting in 2016 until Blodgett’s death in 2018, Blodgett and Léveillé exchanged linked poems in the form of renga, with Blodgett writing in English and Léveillé in French. Playful,

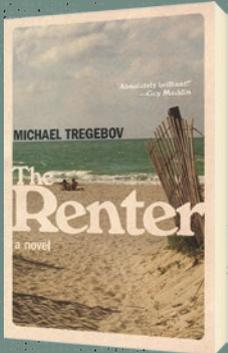


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ROBERT BOSCHMAN

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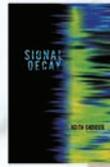
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poignant, full of the lightness and gravity of skies, stars, birdsong, and the poetic voice, these poems reveal the richness that two languages responding to each other can create.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 hc, 108 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-47-0, available as ebook)

GOSPEL DRUNK

Aidan Chafe

Without flinching, Chafe teases out the roles religion and substance abuse can play in childhood understanding, misdirected emotions, male violence, the politics of race, and a sense of identity. These poems – in forms including the prose poem, sonnet, cento, ghazal, and found poem – examine hockey culture, war, lust, and recovery.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 90 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-546-7, available as ebook)

IRON GODDESS OF MERCY: A POEM

Larissa Lai

This long poem, inspired by the tumultuous history of Hong Kong and written in 64 fragments to honour the

hexagrams of the *I Ching*, interrogates fluid and complex notions of identity. Each fragment addresses a particular entity, from the concrete Chinese lady, Sister, Achilles, or Hannah Arendt, to the abstract Dialectic, Witness Protection, Silence, or Revolution, and each closes with a haiku.

(Arsenal Pulp Press, \$19.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-844-1, available as ebook)

LET THIS LAKE REMEMBER

Joan Shillington

This lake is Alberta's Lake Wabamun, and the memories are of fishing, trapping, gathering wood, and driving with a flawed but revered father, and of berry picking, gardening, and hospital visits with a dear mother, of winter moons and summer evenings, of a childhood that still haunts the speaker.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-11-7, available as ebook)

MURMURATION

A. B. Dillon

Organized around the concept of bird migration and the three principles birds

in flight follow – separation, alignment, cohesion – these poems explore family, love, loss, and art in spare and intimate words and spaces, interrupted by the raucous commentary of a crow.

(Thistledown Press, \$20.00 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-197-6)

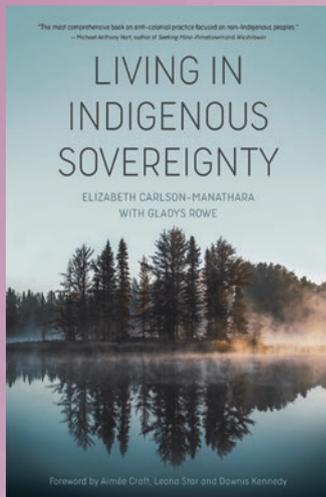
NAUTILUS AND BONE

Lisa Richter

This biography-in-poems captures the brilliant and tragic spirit of Yiddish poet Anna Margolin in a rich new voice, exploring major events and places in Margolin's life, putting her in dialogue with other poets such as Yusef Komunyakaa, Mark Doty, William Blake, and Charles Baudelaire, and using forms like the glosa, the cento, and the Golden Shovel to pay homage.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-12-4, available as ebook)

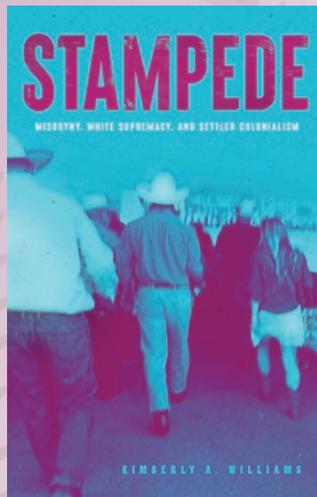
NEW from PRAIRIE AUTHORS



Living in Indigenous Sovereignty

by Elizabeth Carlson-Manathara
With Gladys Rowe

Living in Indigenous Sovereignty lifts up the wisdom of Indigenous scholars, activists and knowledge keepers who speak pointedly to what they are asking of non-Indigenous people. It also shares the experiences of thirteen white settler Canadians who are deeply engaged in solidarity work with Indigenous Peoples. Together, these stories offer inspiration and guidance for settler Canadians who wish to live honourably in relationship with Indigenous Peoples, laws and lands.



Stampede

Misogyny, White Supremacy and Settler Colonialism

by Kimberly A. Williams

Stampede examines the settler colonial roots of the Calgary Stampede and uses its centennial celebration in 2012 to explore how the event continues to influence life on the streets and in the bars and boardrooms of Canada's fourth-largest city.

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'Journeys are acts of expectation' in Caroline Wong's new collection

Wong reflects on echoes of Li Po and Li Qing Zhao

by Kyla Neufeld

PRIMAL SKETCHES

Caroline Wong
Signature Editions
\$17.95 pb, 96 pages
ISBN: 978-1-773240-86-2

Journeys of all sorts fill the pages of Burnaby-based Caroline Wong's new collection of poems, *Primal Sketches*. Wong takes readers stumbling through hiking paths in British Columbia, trudging along the Camino de Santiago, and fleeing down the Yangtze River. She takes readers on journeys through loss, death, diaspora, and finally, hope.

"For me, journeys are acts of expectation, a move toward possibilities and discovery. Over the years, I have taken many journeys, most important of which is my immigration from southern China to Canada when I was young," says Wong.

Poems such as "What We Carry," "Where We Land," and "Ancestor Worship" draw on the stories of her family and their many forced migrations and immigrations

"My paternal great-grandfather went to Malaysia; my maternal

grandfather, to Cuba; my two uncles, to Annam, Vietnam; and my father and his father, to Canada," she says. "But my family story is also one of uprooting, loss, hardships, suffering, loneliness, twinned with a story of human courage, resilience, and most important, of love of family and the continuation of the family line."

Among her words, Wong also makes space for two ancient Chinese poets, Li Po and Li Qing Zhao, whose works echo her own.

"Li Po lived most of his life in exile. I grew up with some of his poems. Mostly written in five- or seven-words-per-line quatrains in simple language, his poems are easy to learn and memorize, their meanings easily comprehended. More important, his feeling of isolation, loneliness, his longing for home, conveyed through his economically, imagistically rendered lines, resonated with me, even before I was emotionally aware of my own uprooting as a child."

Wong came to know Li Qing Zhao's poetry as an adult. "Her poetry is styled on the *ci* form, meant to be sung, easy to commit to memory," she explains. "As with Li Po, she

too was forced into exile, often separated from her husband. Themes of loss, impermanence, loneliness, and longing permeate her poetry.

"The sound of autumn wind and rain, the sight of wild geese returning, the anguish of parting, the joy of reunion reverberate throughout her elegant lines. The depths of emotion, the simplicity and honesty of her language captivate and deeply move me every time

I revisit her poetry."

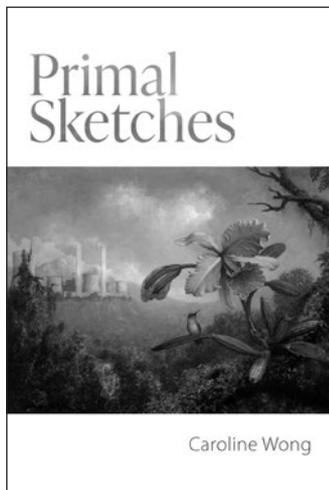
For Wong, the process of writing is a journey in itself, an ongoing search for belonging.

"The integrity, depth, and power of a poem depends on choosing the precise words, line breaks, pauses; a fitting image, an apt metaphor. I find the last line of a poem the hardest to write. I want the poem to end in such a way that it will hold the reader long after," she says.

"I always feel I have never really left, or arrived. I am still in translation, caught in the in-between, poised at the edge of possibilities that hover just over the horizon, waiting to be discovered. In some ways, the journeys, in real life and in my writing, are ongoing journeys inside me, conveying me toward some unknown, unexpected, yet surprising destinations." 🌿



Caroline Wong



Caroline Wong

One-man drama brings ‘the singing miner’ through disaster to life

Beau Dixon discovered common threads between himself and historical figure

by Luis Reis

BENEATH SPRINGHILL:

The Maurice Ruddick Story

Beau Dixon

Music by Susan Newman and Lyrics by Rob Fortin
Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing

\$15.95 pb, 72 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927922-76-7

You ask me what kept me alive down there? Well, it was my faith. My music. My family.” So says the protagonist of *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story* by Beau Dixon, a playwright, actor, and musician who divides his time between Peterborough and Toronto.

Maurice Ruddick, known as “the singing miner,” was an African Canadian man who survived nine days underground during the 1958 Springhill, Nova Scotia, mining disaster. Dixon performs this one-man “drama with music,” taking on the roles of all 10 characters.



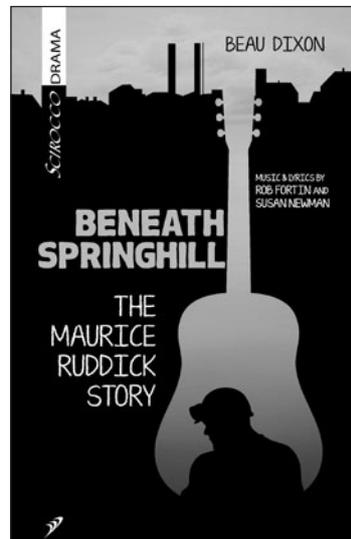
Beau Dixon

The play, which features music by Susan Newman and lyrics by Rob Fortin, follows Maurice through the days of the disaster, and shows how he kept his faith. It celebrates hope, courage, and community.

“Maurice was a man of virtue,” says Dixon. “And with that virtue came the stubborn will to survive.

He had no choice but to believe that he and his fellow miners would be rescued. He believed that if they just stayed awake, kept breathing and laughing, they would be rescued. And when the other miners would lose hope, Maurice would keep their morale and spirits up by entertaining them with song and humour. He would distract them from losing hope.”

The play touches on the racism embedded within the working class, but also shows how it was – to some extent – overcome. Dixon says Ruddick was always treated like an outsider until the earth tremor.



“But,” he explains, “because of his heroic deeds, it was a reminder that Maurice was the same as all of the other miners; he had a family to feed and he wanted to go home, just like the rest of them.” The miners experienced the same risky working conditions for the same low pay, “day in and day out.”

Dixon’s work as an actor and a musician gave him insight into the development of the

play’s language. “The rhythm of dialogue in a play is very similar to the rhythm of verses in a song,” he says.

“I find walking around in my house and saying the text out loud helps to convince me whether a scene’s working or not. Sometimes, I’ll sing the text. See if it holds the same meaning. Being a musician and actor are tools I can use to expand my writing skills.”

While Dixon has written several plays, he connects to this play on a particularly personal level, as he comes from a background very similar to Maurice’s. Both of Dixon’s parents are from the East Coast; his father is Black and his mother white.

“Maurice was a person of mixed race, like myself,” says Dixon. “He was also a father who had 13 kids. My dad had 13 siblings. Maurice also frequented the church and knew hundreds of hymns by memory. My dad was an Anglican minister and my mother a hospital chaplain. Maurice wrote his own songs and played guitar. I write my own songs and play guitar! The more research I did on Maurice, the more I realized we had so much in common.

“It quickly came to my attention that I was destined to write this play.”

MORE DRAMA

DIGITAL PERFORMANCE IN CANADA: NEW ESSAYS IN CANADIAN THEATRE, VOLUME 11

Edited by David Owen

This collection of essays, especially important in a historical moment in which many theatre companies have been forced to move their work online, shows the influence and ubiquity of digital technology on performance practices in Canada. (Playwrights Canada, \$29.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-251-5)

LONG LIVE THE NEW FLESH: SIX PLAYS FROM THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

Edited by David Owen

Six works of digital theatre – *Avatar* by Freya Olafson, *You Are Very Star* by The Electric Company, *Helen Lawrence* by Chris Haddock and Stan Douglas, *Muse* by Barbra French, *Town Choir* by Theatre Replacement, and *Alien Contagion: Rise of the Zombie Syndrome* by Andy Thompson, Tyler Clarke, and Finn Ghosh-Luedke – illustrate how audiences are forced to re-evaluate definitions of performative space, bodies, and relationships. (Playwrights Canada, \$34.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-250-8)

OUR FATHERS, SONS, LOVERS AND LITTLE BROTHERS

Makambe K Simamba

Slimm, a 17-year-old Black boy in a hoodie, suddenly finds himself in the first moments of his afterlife. As he journeys through the unknown, he grapples with the truth of the life he lived and the death he didn't choose, in this play that is a protest, a prayer, and a promise. (Playwrights Canada, \$18.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-242-3)

OUR GHOSTS

Sally Stubbs

A fighter jet vanishes in 1956, and after a brief inquiry by the Royal Canadian Air Force, it is determined that the plane and its two pilots sank into the Pacific Ocean. But the wife of one of the pilots refuses to accept that her husband is dead. This play is both a taut investigative tale and a testament to the love and tenacity of a woman determined to uncover the truth. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-75-0)

THE SOCIETY FOR THE DESTITUTE PRESENTS TITUS BOUFFONIUS

Colleen Murphy

Five characters who shelter at the Society for the Destitute decide to put on Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* with the grant money they've received – they choose it because it has the most murders. The players turn all the roles into clowns, and hilariously present human foibles in this satirical and unflinching look at war, rage, and grief. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-77-4)

TEXT AND CONTEXT: THE OPERATIVE WORD

Richard Greenblatt

This handbook for script work and directing in the theatre offers theatre practitioners – students, directors, actors, designers, and production personnel – sound methods of text investigation and rehearsal processes. Greenblatt provides techniques for communication and artistic collaboration, and tools to create healthy, productive, and equitable processes, as he reimagines traditional hierarchical structures. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 150 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-73-6)

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Collection springs from reflections on offhand remark

Rona Altrows wanted to hear from women in their fifth to tenth decades of life

by Margaret Anne Fehr

YOU LOOK GOOD FOR YOUR AGE:

An Anthology

Edited by Rona Altrows
 University of Alberta Press
 \$26.99 pb, 224 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-77212-532-0
 Available as an ebook

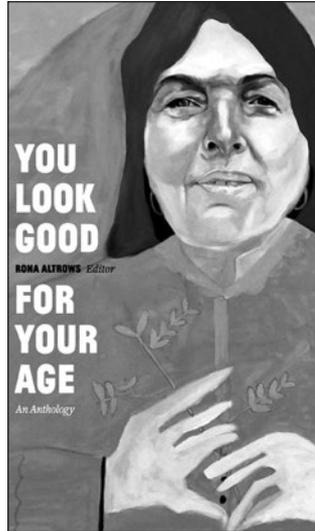
You Look Good for Your Age: *An Anthology*, collected by Calgary-based writer and editor Rona Altrows, takes on the subject of women, aging, and ageism with vigour.

The anthology includes the contributions of 29 women ranging in age from their forties to nineties. The short stories, essays, and poems run the gamut of experiences from the subtle to the blatant in framing perspectives around aging.

For Altrows, her encounter with the titular phrase came while being fitted for a CPAP device after an apnea diagnosis. The respiratory therapist when checking Altrows’s birthdate on her medical chart remarked, “You look good for your age.”

“She meant it as a compliment,” says Altrows, “but inwardly, I bristled. In the following days and weeks I couldn’t stop thinking about it – what was stated and implied by those words.”

Altrows continues, “Once the overthinking reached the point that I would burst if I did not do something, I wrote about it. And then I realized that I wanted to hear the voices of other people who identified as female. That is how the idea for the anthology came up. When I approached prospective contributors, I would tell them the title and the theme, but what they wrote, as long



as it honoured and explored that theme, was entirely up to them.”

For this book to be true to the principles of equity Altrows believes in, she approached writers of various ethnicities, and also ensured she could feature the voices of women in their fifth to tenth decades. “Because ageism starts being thrown women’s way when they are in their forties,” Altrows observes. Contributors include Sharon Butala, Joy Kogawa, Laurie MacFayden, Moni Brar, Joan Crate, Aritha van Herk, and Madelaine Shaw-Wong.



Rona Altrows

“For this anthology, I decided to go with personal invitations to submit. In most cases I invited writers – some well-known and others not yet well-known, but I hope they will be, starting now – whose work I knew and loved. Nobody had an automatic in, though. If a piece did not, in my opinion, resonate with the theme, I would have to say no, and I did.”

The book’s section titles are Insight, Elders, Body, Love, Timelines, and Enough!, with pieces exploring meditation, caring for aging parents, the death of friends, medical issues, and intimate body care rituals, among much more.

“I found myself constantly surprised, not so much by the themes, but by the multitude of inventive ways in which contributors expressed themselves,” says Altrows.

She anticipates a wide readership of people who like to read, think, and feel. “I do not say that facetiously. We are all aging, so why should the book be of interest to only specific demographics, when it is full of moving, stimulating, thought-inspiring work? What reader wants to miss out on that?”

Altrows enjoyed working with the people at the University of Alberta Press. “They are professional and kind,” she says.

“And I want to thank my contributors, without whom there would be no book. They are very much my co-creators for this project.” 🌿

Storytelling insights pair with tales from Elders in prolific writer's first non-fiction book

'I promise they will swoon your spirit and heart,' Van Camp says of stories he collected

by Paula E. Kirman

GATHER:

**Richard Van Camp
on Storytelling**

Writers on Writing Series

Richard Van Camp

University of Regina Press

\$19.95 pb, 212 pages

ISBN: 978-0-889777-00-2

Available as an ebook

Storytelling has the power to bring people together – even during a time of isolation. In *Gather: Richard Van Camp on Storytelling*, author Richard Van Camp shares his vast knowledge – components of a compelling story, storytelling techniques, and the impact storytelling can have in building community.

Van Camp, a member of the Tłı̄ch̄ Dene First Nation, also shares some of his favourite stories from friends, family, and Elders whose wisdom has influenced him.

Gather is Van Camp's 25th book, and his first book of non-fiction.

"I've been recording and transcribing and collecting miracle stories from Elders, Storytellers, and Knowledge Keepers since 1991 when I was the Handi-Bus driver in my gorgeous hometown of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and I've been thinking

about how we're all craving community, culture, and connection – especially these past few years," he explains.

Over four years, Van Camp has gone through 40 or so stories that he collected with permission to choose "the ones that have helped guide my life in terms of having faith in the universe."

These stories include several from Elders and Knowledge Keepers about miracles they have experienced. "I promise they will swoon your spirit and heart," says Van Camp. The audio from three of the storytellers is available on SoundCloud so readers can listen to the storytellers in their own voices.

Van Camp has high hopes for this book.

"I hope *Gather* inspires readers to start digitizing their old cassette recordings of family songs and stories, and digitize their family pictures, movies, recipes, gardening, looming, sewing, darning, cooking, and baking techniques.

I hope families start documenting their community calendar and start reclaiming their

seasonal knowledge (stars, land, moon, planets, etc.), and I hope for future birthdays and for Christmas, it is recorded stories and videos and honourings and inheritances that are passed along, instead of stuff we don't want or need."



Richard Van Camp

WILLIAM AU PHOTOGRAPHY

Also recently published is a dual-language (English and Anishinaabemowin) edition of Van Camp's board book *Little You*.

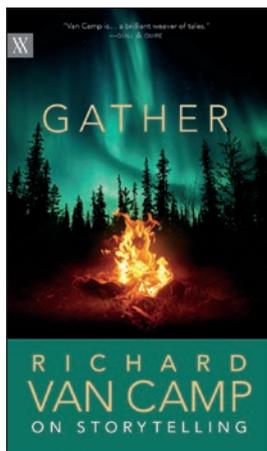
"Right now, Indigenous creators are using baby books, comics, graphic novels, social media, movies, books, pop culture

– you name it – to celebrate and secure our culture and languages," says Van Camp. "So far, *Little You* is translated into Bush Cree, Dene, South Slavey, Spanish, Ojibwe, and French, and I am so thrilled and honoured to see this."

Always prolific, Van Camp is currently working on a variety of projects, including a book honouring a Tłı̄ch̄ story told by Joe Lazare Zoe called "How Frog Saved Winter" (working title), which is translated into Tłı̄ch̄ by Madelaine Pasquayak, with illustrations by Carla Rae Taylor. "It's a teaching story about how everyone has gifts, and I can't wait for you to read it," he says.

Van Camp also has two graphic novels in the works, as well as an animated short film. He's working on short story and essay collections. And Enfield & Wizenty is turning his short story collection *Night Moves* into an audio book. "So I'm working with our narrator, Marsha Knight, on making sure she has everything she needs to rock the classic northern accents of my characters," he says.

"Every day is a gift when you have so many projects on the go because there is so much to look forward to." 🌿



Fifth poetry collection from Halfe is fresh, pure fun

New editions of two previous collections to be published this year as well

by Ariel Gordon

AWÂSIS – KINKY AND DISHEVELLED

Louise B. Halfe – Sky Dancer

Brick Books

\$20.00 pb, 88 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77131-548-7

Available as an ebook

The year 2021 will be a momentous one for Cree poet Louise Bernice Halfe – Sky Dancer, raised on Saddle Lake Reserve in Saskatchewan and based near Saskatoon.

Halfe has a new collection, *awâsis – kinky and dishevelled*, coming out this spring.

“*awâsis* means more than ‘child.’ It translates to ‘being lent a spiritual being’ – *awâsis* celebrates and helps us to laugh at ourselves and our follies,” says Halfe, who notes that her friend and mentor Jeff Wastesicoot provided this translation.

“These *wawiyatâcimowinisa* – funny little stories – arrived through numerous tongues and many different communities. I am deeply grateful to all those *nechi* – friends – who contributed to this text. They took delight in celebrating *awâsis*, the adult child within. I won’t name them but they will find their stories.”

awâsis – kinky and dishevelled includes a foreword in the form of a poem from Elder Maria Campbell in which she says,

Such power, Louise. I have never laughed so hard – and all by myself. / You are a healing storyteller wandering in from old *kayâs* long ago. This / is all about Indigenizing and reconciliation among ourselves. It’s the / kind of funny, shake-up, poking, smacking, and farting we all need while / laughing our guts out. And it’s beautiful, gentle, and loving.

Though this is Halfe’s fifth collection, she has worked hard to keep things fresh for herself as a writer and an Indigenous woman. Previous books, while sharp and witty, explored painful experiences like residential school life, but this one is pure fun.

“I attempt to have a new process for every piece of work I’ve embarked on,” Halfe says. “I want to honour the



tribe – Cree from my home and heart base, the culture and the people from which I write.”

Also in 2021, new editions of Halfe’s previous collections, *Burning in This Midnight Dream* (2016) and *Blue Marrow* (1998), will be appearing with Brick Books and Kegedonce Press, respectively.

“I am ecstatic that these presses believe in the value of the work of previous books,” says Halfe. “The voice of the people continues to live and be heard.”

These titles were originally published by Regina’s Coteau Books, which closed its doors in February 2020 after 45 years.

“It is with sadness that I’ve accepted [Coteau’s] departure as they were very, very good to me,” says Halfe. “They’ve been the vehicle to many writers and people who’ve just begun their journey with written publications.”

While she’ll spend part of the year launching these three books, she will also be busy sorting through material for two pending manuscripts.

“I don’t yet have any idea what they are doing as it’s a collection of 30 years of work,” Halfe says.

And that’s not all: On February 3, 2021, Halfe was appointed Canada’s Parliamentary Poet Laureate for a two-year term!

“There is a saying, ‘When you honour one, you honour all; when you shame one, you shame all,’” says Halfe. “I am deeply humbled that people/writers thought the writing that has surfaced from my heart, these hands, and the written word has received such wonderful accolades.” 🌿



Louise B. Halfe – Sky Dancer

Métis road trip tale shows snapshot of everyday life in late 1800s

Frederick, based on author's grandfather, anchors coming-of-age story

by Shirley Byers

ROAD TO LA PRAIRIE RONDE

Cort Dogniez

Illustrated by Jade McDougall
Gabriel Dumont Institute Press
\$15.00 pb, 464 pages
ISBN: 978-1-926795-97-3

“Métis history, culture, and perspectives are largely overlooked in schools, focusing on the Resistances and Métis people as rebels,” says Cort Dogniez, author of *Road to La Prairie Ronde*.



Cort Dogniez

“I wanted students to see Métis people in a realistic manner, and celebrate their culture, ways of life, and how they shaped Saskatchewan.”

Dogniez’s chapter book for early readers is set in the spring of 1883. Young Frederick Dumont joins Métis leader Gabriel Dumont, his wife, Madeleine, and Gabriel’s brother Isidore and his wife, Judith, (Frederick’s grandparents) on an imagined journey by Red River cart and horseback from Batoche to the Métis settlement of La Prairie Ronde to visit family.



Jade McDougall

Such trips were not uncommon nor were they easy by today’s standards. “On a good day we can travel forty miles, but that will be with good weather and no accidents,” Frederick’s mooshoom, Isidore, tells him.

“All the characters were real people,” says Dogniez. “Frederick Dumont was my great-grandfather, but he was born around 1883, when this story happened. He would have been a baby, but I thought it would be fun to share these events through his eyes as a young boy.”

Other events were also plucked from real life. “Gabriel Dumont really did ride a buffalo in the place that became Saskatoon,” says Dogniez.

“Chief Whitecap (Wapaha Ska) did help John Lake identify the location for the temperance colony that became Saskatoon, which was already being shared with the Métis and First Nations Peoples who considered it home. Whitecap Dakota First Nation, originally Moosewoods, was first surveyed in 1881.”

These events are brought to life by the elegant illustrations of artist Jade McDougall. This is her first time illustrating a book for young readers, but she has created cover designs.

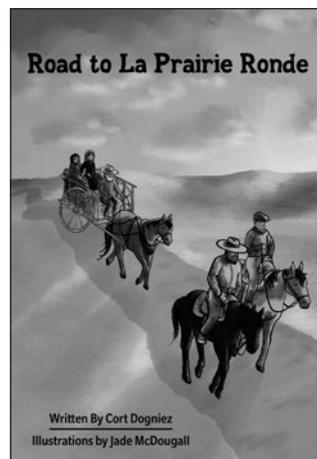
The illustrations were drawn on her laptop, using Photoshop and a digital pen. “I wanted to play around with brush strokes and textures here, and to go for more of a sketchy feel than I normally would with digital pieces,” she says.

“It was challenging to work with a new style and subject matter, not to mention trying to maintain consistency between chapters. But the biggest difficulty was drawing all those Red River carts! Fortunately, I was able to find plenty of reference images to figure out how everything fit together.”

Frederick is also trying to figure things out as he comes of age. Along the trail, he learns valuable life lessons and aspects of Métis culture around hunting, family, community, and the Creator – things as big as taking part in the hunt with the men and as important as knowing when to laugh and when not to laugh.

Road to La Prairie Ronde is the first book in this historical fiction series. The second is already written, and Dogniez is currently at work on the third.

Dogniez says, “My intent with all my stories is to ensure that Métis cultural components are woven throughout the stories to encourage children to learn more about us, but also to think about their own cultural traits and practices.” 🌿



Short story collection picks up where Annie Muktuk left off

Dunning pokes at perceptions of Inuit who live outside the North

by Margaret Goldik

TAINNA (THE UNSEEN ONES)

Norma Dunning
Douglas & McIntyre
\$19.95 pb, 160 pages
ISBN: 978-1-77162-271-4
Available as an ebook

Norma Dunning's latest short story collection, *Tainna* (*The Unseen Ones*), continues the powerful work she began with *Annie Muktuk and Other Stories*, for which she won the Danuta Glead Literary Award in 2018. The same year she won the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Howard O'Hagan Award for the short story "Elipsee," and was a finalist for the City of Edmonton Book Award.

In 2020, she published a collection of poetry entitled *Eskimo Pie: A Poetics of Inuit Identity*.

"I write about Inuit that I see and some that I know in the south and how they struggle, not because they are incapable, but because there is a lack of acceptance from other Inuit and from the public overall. Inuit remain exotic oddities in Canada, when in truth we are mostly regular people who get up and go to work and school and live normal lives," Dunning says.

Dunning likes to play with the expectations of others. "Inuit identity

that is out of context according to mainstream, meaning that Inuit are not supposed to live in the southern areas of Canada, is something I love to trouble," she says.

"Forty-eight per cent of Inuit Canadians live outside of their land claim areas. Inuit live in places all around the world, but if we are not in the North then – well, there has to be something wrong with us."

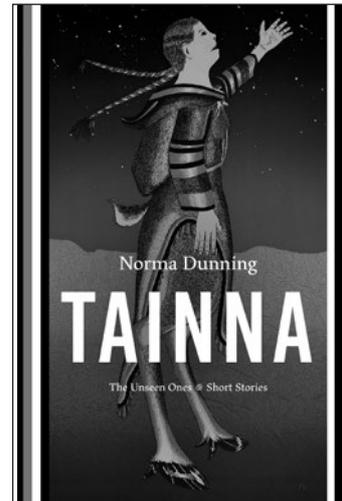
Dunning revisits Annie Muktuk in "These Old Bones."

"I knew I was not finished with Annie after the first collection," she says. "I knew she would come back to me because a character like Annie is not going to live happily-ever-after with a Pentecostal preacher in the North of Canada. What I had to think about was, what would have become of her and how is she as a woman heading off into what some people think of as 'twilight years?'"

In "Eskimo Heaven,"

Ittura sets himself the task of teaching Father Peter some understanding of the flock he is shepherding. But when Dunning is asked if it is possible for two such different cultures to completely understand each other, she is forceful in her reply: "No, and I hope not. If we understood each other through and through,

then we become the pan-Indigenous or the multicultural mosaic that Canada likes to say it already is. To me it's not about gaining a full understanding; it's about having respect for one another."



Stories like "Tainna (The Unseen Ones)" and "Kunak" are raw and emotive, with some haunting images, such as the one in "Tainna" where a groundskeeper on a golf course comes across 60 geese sitting in a "bison" circle, with their heads pointing outwards. The guardian geese were there for a reason, and that reason was a tragic one.

Does her intense writing take a lot out of Dunning?

"To me as a writer, if you don't feel it, then don't write it," she says. "A great deal of what I write is very difficult to put down, but I think it's worth exposing that rawness and reality out and into the world. I don't write for shock value. I write what I hold to be true." ✍



Norma Dunning

EMILY WELZ STUDIO

Medicine Wheel teachings from workshops, business come together into a book

Full-colour photographs and personal insights complement plant wisdom

by Paula E. Kirman

MOTHER EARTH PLANTS FOR HEALTH AND BEAUTY:

Indigenous Plants, Traditions, and Recipes

Carrie Armstrong

Eschia Books

\$24.95 hc, 144 pages

ISBN: 978-1-926696-64-5

Available as an ebook

The Medicine Wheel is an integral part of Indigenous culture, representing balance and connection, and its teachings comprise many layers of knowledge, including how plants promote health and healing.

Carrie Armstrong, a Cree entrepreneur and now author, presents her grandmother's teachings related to the Medicine Wheel in *Mother Earth Plants for Health and Beauty: Indigenous Plants, Traditions and Recipes*.

The book features 26 edible and medicinal plants – including tobacco, sweetgrass, sage, and cedar – that can be gathered in nature, noting the healing properties and identifying features for each. The book also provides recipes for beauty and health products, such as lotions, bath bombs, and healing teas.

“I wanted to share the knowledge and showcase the beauty of the culture in a modern way, so people can appreciate the contributions they may not be aware of that were made by Indigenous people,” says Armstrong, who is based in Edmonton and is the founder of Mother Earth Essentials, a health and beauty company that creates products using these natural plants and teachings.

Armstrong had been doing many workshops about these Medicine Wheel teachings, imparting the knowledge of her grandmother to eager students, both Indigenous and settler. Putting those teachings into a book made sense to her. Basically, she says, “it comes back to the reason I started my business: honouring the teachings of my grandma.”

Armstrong, a first-time author, found the writing and editing process of the book to be long and daunting, but worth the effort.

“I found it extremely overwhelming at first,” she says. “I talked to my computer, which transcribed what I was saying, to organize my thoughts into sections. I had to

do some research around the more scientific parts of the plants, because I have more traditional knowledge of the teachings of my grandma.

“Sometimes it was frustrating because I would think it was done, and I would send it to the editor who would send me back things to fix. I had to learn some patience.” In the end, she was satisfied with the extra effort and the final result.

The book is aimed at a broad readership. “Anyone interested in Indigenous culture, plant wisdom, saving money, and making their own products” is the targeted audience, according to Armstrong. “It seems like there is a real hunger for more information and more wisdom on Indigenous teachings.”

Mother Earth Plants for Health and Beauty is enhanced by full-colour photographs throughout and personal stories that emphasize the healing properties of the plants presented. Readers may also develop an appreciation for the beauty of Indigenous culture, as well as a deeper awareness of certain issues.

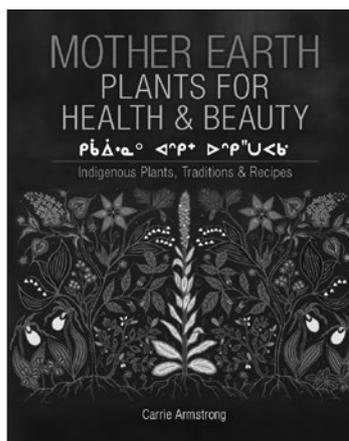
For example, the lasting effects of residential school are addressed in the book, in both historical and personal terms.

Armstrong's wishes for the book are heartfelt.

“Ultimately,” she says, “I would hope readers will take away some knowledge that will bring them some joy and appreciation and respect for the plants themselves and for Mother Earth.” 🌿



Carrie Armstrong



Cree language book a resource for both teachers, parents to learn syllabics

Robertson focuses on memorable, simple phrases that can be passed on to others

by Paula E. Kirman

NĪPIN

Cam Robertson

Goldrock Press

\$14.95 pb, 24 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927410-67-7



Cam Robertson

help their children learn Cree. “I write simple phrases that people can say or remember hearing as a child and maybe teach someone else,” says Robertson, who is grateful to Goldrock Press for supporting the book.

Robertson wants people to learn not only to speak the language, but also to use the syllabic system, which is new to a lot of people. “I am still remembering; I learned as a child 45 years ago, but forgot because it was so long ago, but each day I am remembering.”

Robertson is also working on a novel and a play. “I teamed up with actors from Manitoba Theatre for Young People. We are doing a play that will be released shortly called

Frozen River. I am teaching them Cree and how to speak. I am hoping this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship with such amazing people,” he says.

“I have so many plays and dances and songs that need to be heard.” 🌿

Teaching a language to children is a way of transmitting culture to the next generation. Cam Robertson’s book *NĪpin*, which means “It is summer,” introduces Cree phrases about summer to children from ages five to 10.

The phrases are presented in transliterated Cree, in Cree syllabics, and in English. Each phrase is also accompanied by a colourful photograph that depicts what the phrase is intended to communicate.

“Today I see my language in peril,” says Robertson, who now lives in Winnipeg and holds a Cree instructor certificate from Red River College. “I am hoping to give people their real identity by teaching my language through the art of storytelling.”

Robertson, who is also the Cree language lab tech at the University of Winnipeg, credits his grandparents for inspiring him on his storytelling path. Born in Norway House, Manitoba, Robertson is Ininew (Cree) and was raised around the area by his grandparents. The family moved often.

“Each season we were in a different spot within our amazing homeland where we would sometimes have to share the campsite with someone else like a travelling relative,” he says.

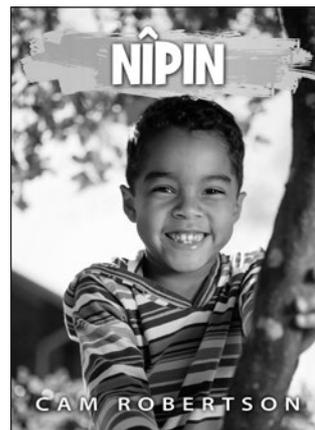
“There they would always tell stories and I would constantly listen with pointed ears and wide-opened eyes. Both my grandparents were

amazing storytellers. They filled my head with so much into my already overflowing mind.”

Robertson’s main home as a child was in a town known at the time as Warren’s Landing (NĪyawakahk), at the north basin of Lake Winnipeg. Though it was once a thriving town, in his childhood there were abandoned buildings where Robertson would find old books that his grandfather would read to him.

“He went to residential school, so he knew how to read and taught me what he could. Today I have that style in my writing, old English mixed with Cree thanks to *Moby Dick* and Farley Mowat, along with endless stories and knowledge about our ‘real’ Cree ways of life,” says Robertson.

NĪpin will be a valuable teaching tool to both teachers of the Cree language and parents who want to



MORE FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT

PICTURE BOOKS

ASIGIBII'GANAN

Susan Johnston

This book introduces children from ages three to five to numbers 1 to 10 in Ojibwa and English. Vivid photographs depict real objects for easy identification.

(Goldrock Press, \$14.95 pb, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927410-61-5)

THE FROG MOTHER, BOOK 4, MOTHERS OF XSAN

Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson), illustrated by Natasha Donovan

This latest book in the award-winning series showcases Columbia Spotted Frogs, whose long tongues represent storytellers and translators to the Gitxsan of northwestern

British Columbia. Readers will learn about their life cycle and how Nox Ga'naaw, the Frog Mother, and her offspring are essential to the balance that is life.

(HighWater Press, \$23.00 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-901-6, available as ebook)

LITTLE YOU/GIDAGAASHIINH

Richard Van Camp,

illustrated by Julie Flett,

translated by Margaret Noodin and Angela Mesic

Van Camp's tender board book for babies and toddlers that honours the child in everyone is now available as a dual-language (English and Anishinaabemowin) hardcover picture book.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$19.95 hc, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2550-5, available as ebook)

ON THE TRAPLINE

David A. Robertson,

illustrated by Julie Flett

A grandson and his moshom travel to the northern wilderness to the trapline that his moshom has not visited since he was a boy. In this very special place, the boy learns about Moshom's life as a child, as they fish, eat berries, walk, and talk, connecting with the land and each other.

(Tundra Books, \$21.99 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6668-1, available as ebook)

RAVEN, RABBIT, DEER

Sue Farrell Holler, illustrated by Jennifer Faria

In this charming intergenerational winter story, a grandfather introduces his grandson to all his forest neighbours, naming them in both English and Ojibwemowin. Together they study the different tracks, and after their walk, they enjoy cookies, a book, and a warm fire.

(Pajama Press, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77278-136-6)

ROAD ALLOWANCE KITTEN: BROKEN PROMISES

Wilfred Burton, illustrated by Christina John, Michif translation by Norman Fleury

This sequel to *Road Allowance Kitten* follows Rosie, Madeline, and their kitten as they and their family are forcibly removed from their homes and relocated to unfamiliar Green Lake, Saskatchewan, where they find they are not being provided with the land and schooling they had been promised.

(Gabriel Dumont Institute Press, \$15.00 pb, 48 pages, with CD, ISBN: 978-1-926795-94-2)

STAND LIKE A CEDAR

Nicola I. Campbell, illustrated by Carrielynn Victor

In this stunningly illustrated and lyrical book, various explorations – canoeing on the water, running on a mountain trail – lead to beautiful discoveries in the wilderness, and sustainable fishing, hunting, and gathering practices demonstrate connection with the land.

(HighWater Press, \$19.95 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-921-4, available as ebook)

TREATY WORDS: FOR AS LONG AS THE RIVERS FLOW

Aimée Craft, illustrated by Luke Swinson

This gentle and meditative book addresses the philosophy of treaties in a story of a granddaughter and her Mishomis spending time on the banks of the river, learning to hear the sounds and the silences, and learning about the bonds of reciprocity and renewal that are the treaties.

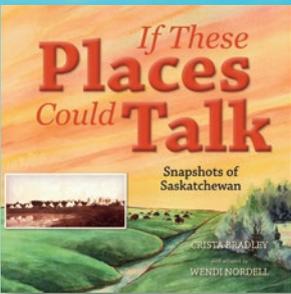
(Annick Press, \$16.95 hc, 60 pages, with author's note, ISBN: 978-1-77321-496-2, available as ebook)

WAHOGICOBĪ: KINSHIP TERMS TO MAKE RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

Nakota Sioux Language Keepers, illustrated by Destry Love Roan

With this board book of kinship terms, the Nakota Sioux people hope that their babies and young children hear and learn these words that refer to family members, and through them, know that they are loved and cared for.

(Eschia Books, \$7.95 board book, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926696-86-7)



If These Places Could Talk
Snapshots of Saskatchewan
Crista Bradley & Wendi Nordell

If places could talk, what would they say? Every place in Saskatchewan has a story to tell. Journey through time to explore some of them! Contains 100+ archival photos and images, map of Saskatchewan places, and link to free educator's guide.

978-1-988783-59-8
\$19.95 | 9 x 9 | Hard Cover | 48 pp

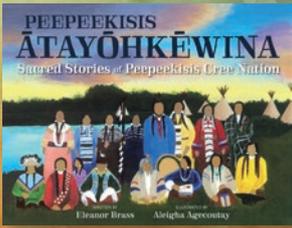
NEW PRAIRIE PICTURE BOOKS

peepeekisis ātayōhkēwina
Sacred Stories of Peepeekisis Cree Nation
Eleanor Brass & Aleigha Agecutay

These 25 stories of the Peepeekisis Cree Nation tell of the Little People, Wesuketchuk, and the Sky People, and share the Plains Cree worldview, values, and spiritual beliefs. Illustrated. Presented in both English and Plains Cree (y-dialect); includes pronunciation guide.

978-1-988783-63-5
\$19.95 | 11 x 8.5 | Soft Cover | 96 pp

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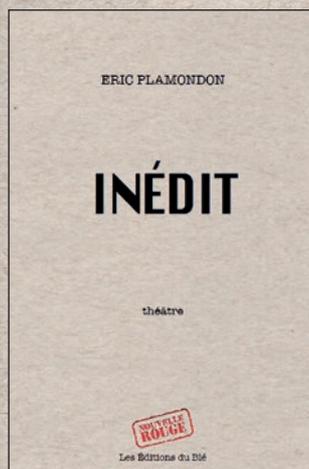


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LA COLLECTION NOUVELLE ROUGE

DISPONIBLE EN LIBRAIRIE ET EN LIGNE



INÉDIT
Eric Plamondon
Théâtre, 2020

Le premier ouvrage de cet artiste multidisciplinaire présente le désordre des émotions de ses personnages, et explore plus largement l'art queer.



BOUSSOLE FRANCHE
Amber O'Reilly
Poésie, 2020

Une exploration linguistique, émotive et naturelle des lieux où l'autrice a transité au cours de sa vie. Une rose des vents d'une grande géographie de l'intime, du féminin et du social.



MON ÉCOLOGIE
Alasdair Rees
Poésie, printemps 2021

Dans cette rencontre de la physique et de la philosophie sont décortiqués avec soin le processus de la nature tout comme les objets anodins qui entourent le poète.



Publier les jeunes talents émergents du Manitoba, de l'Ouest et du Nord canadiens. Les œuvres présentées au sein de cette nouvelle collection sont parfois hybrides et multidisciplinaires et elles définissent dans leur forme, leur thème et leur sujet, cette nouvelle génération d'auteur.e.s.



LES ÉDITIONS DU BLÉ (Saint-Boniface, Manitoba) - ble.refc.ca



Les Éditions du Blé remercient chaleureusement ses subventionnaires : le Conseil des arts du Canada, le Conseil des arts du Manitoba, la Direction des arts du Ministère du Sport, de la Culture et du Patrimoine de la Province du Manitoba et le Regroupement des éditeurs franco-canadiens. La maison remercie également ses précieux collaborateurs et collaboratrices, lectrices et lecteurs toujours fidèles au rendez-vous.

FOR YOUNG READERS

THE CASE OF THE BURGLER BUNDLE

Michael Hutchinson

Book 3 of the Mighty Muskrats Mystery series sees the four cousins from Windy Lake First Nation – Chickadee, Atim, Otter, and Sam – attempting to figure out who took the treaty bundle that is key to the four-day ceremony of the National Assembly of Cree Peoples. The history and knowledge passed down to each generation through the bundle is at stake. (Second Story Press, \$10.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77260-166-4, available as ebook)

JAYSEN'S STORY

Jaysen Flett-Paul, illustrated by Chloe "Bluebird" Mustooch

This book in the Finding Wakâ series of narratives by Nakota Sioux teens tells how 14-year-old Jaysen feels such anger and grief after his mother's murder that he doesn't know how he can go on. But his family and Elders guide him through ceremonies and support him as he finds his inner Spirit. (Eschia Books, \$9.95 pb, 36 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926696-82-9, available as ebook)

SUNFLOWER'S STORY

Sunflower Paul, illustrated by Chloe "Bluebird" Mustooch

This book in the Finding Wakâ series of narratives by Nakota Sioux teens tells how Sunflower's life as a spiritual person, a Tree Girl at Sundance ceremonies, is disrupted in Grade 8 when her mother marries Clifford and she is part of a blended family, attending a city school. To deal with her stress, her grandfather helps her to fast on the land and find her inner Spirit. (Eschia Books, \$10.95 pb, 52 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926696-84-3, available as ebook)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

ROAD ALLOWANCE ERA, VOL. 4, A GIRL CALLED ECHO

Katherena Vermette, illustrated by Scott B. Henderson, colour by Donovan Yaciuk

In this fourth and final instalment of Echo's time-travelling story of strength and resilience, she witnesses many Métis people – cheated out of their right to land – settle on

road allowances and railway land. Members of her family make their way to Rooster Town, on the southwest edges of Winnipeg. (HighWater Press, \$19.95 pb, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-930-6, available as ebook)

SUGAR FALLS: A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STORY

David Robertson, illustrated by Scott B.

Henderson, colour by Donovan Yaciuk

This 10th anniversary edition presents the illustrations in full colour for the first time and includes a foreword by Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and an afterword by Elder Betty Ross, whose story is the basis of the book. (HighWater Press, \$21.95 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-975-7, available as ebook)

FICTION

PICK UP STICKS

Maureen Flynn

The third book in Flynn's mystery series featuring Penny and her partner, Steve, a homicide detective, finds them involved in a play about a famous acting couple who perished in the sinking of the *Titanic* being put on for charity at the Burton Cummings Theatre. The ghost of Hazel has been haunting the theatre, and the off-stage drama includes murder. (FriesenPress, \$21.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7773300-0-2)

SALTUS

Tara Gereaux

The portrayal of small-town life is layered and profound in this novel set on the Prairies in the '90s. At the core is Aaron's desperate attempt to jumpstart her gender transition, the effects of which spread to characters including Aaron's mother, Nadine, Lenore and Trish who work at the Harvest Gold Inn & Restaurant, the local police officer Roger, and Trish's son, Jase. (Nightwood Editions, \$22.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-400-7, available as ebook)

POETRY

BLUE MARROW, THIRD EDITION

Louise B. Halfe – Sky Dancer

This redesigned edition of a classic poetry collection features artwork by Leah Marie Dorion and a new interview with

its celebrated author, who is currently Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada.

(Kegedonce Press, \$16.50 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-928120-25-4)

BURNING IN THIS MIDNIGHT DREAM

Louise B. Halfe – Sky Dancer

Originally published to great acclaim in 2016, this collection of powerful poems recalls the pain and damage caused by the residential school experience. This new edition includes an afterword by the author.

(Brick Books, \$20.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77131-551-7, available as ebook)

CREELAND

Dallas Hunt

This debut poetry collection is concerned with ideas of home, and the everyday attachments we feel to those ideas – how people can live and love and laugh, even in the midst of destructive resource extraction. By examining all the relationships and meanings Cree words can contain but not fully convey, Hunt nurtures the Indigenous aesthetics and futures that colonialism is trying to erase. (Nightwood Editions, \$18.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-392-5)

EXHIBITIONIST

Molly Cross-Blanchard

This perceptive debut collection explores the deep dark corners and wide open spaces of young love and fierce sex in all their complexity, with frank confessions and disarming humour. (Coach House Books, \$21.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55245-422-0, available as ebook)

FATHER, MY FATHER: SELECTED POEMS AND STORIES

Brenda Fontaine

Fontaine's personal collection of poems and stories presents the teachings she would like to pass on to future generations. Fontaine speaks out on a variety of current political, social, and spiritual issues, and includes accounts of personal experiences. (Goldrock Press, \$14.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927410-66-0)

**GREY OWL: THE MYSTERY
OF ARCHIE BELANEY**

Armand Garnet Ruffo

Twenty-five years after this poetry collection – a fascinating mixture of voices in poetry, fiction, letters, and news – was first released, a new edition is available, with an introduction by the author that delves into his family's personal connection with Archie Belaney, and into questions of voice and appropriation. (Wolsak and Wynn, \$20.00 pb, 218 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989496-34-3)

KITOTAM (HE SPEAKS TO IT)

John McDonald

These poems speak to the places (a garbage pit, graveyards, arcades), people (grandfather, community nurturers), objects (a car, a guitar), and rituals (smoking, driving) of a youth in Prince Albert in the first section. In the second part, McDonald explores the creative life – performances, travels, influences and muses, and the acts of writing and painting. (Radiant Press, \$20.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-98927-450-7, available as ebook)

NEDÍ NEZŪ (GOOD MEDICINE)

Tenille K. Campbell

No one captures the humour, diversity, sensuality, and scandal of decolonized desire quite like Campbell does. These wise and joyful poems tell of heartbreak and growth with sly honesty, and they resist the idea that a solo life is somehow lacking in love and lust. (Arsenal Pulp Press, \$17.95 pb, 124 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-846-5, available as ebook)

SCOFFLAW

Garry Thomas Morse

This long poem playfully explores Indigenous-settler relations in quick-witted and allusive ways. A shadowy figure named Scofflaw spars with an enigmatic “we” to comment on such topics as sacred remains under the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the effects of pesticides on Manitoba butterflies, and who gets to decide which words live or die. (Anvil Press, \$18.00 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-172-6)

DRAMA

TWO INDIANS

Falen Johnson

Two cousins reunite in a Toronto alley, years after Roe left their community, fleeing the emotional aftermath of a tragic incident. Win has come to visit, really to convince Roe to come home. While waiting to view the supermoon, the two dig deeply into their own truth and attempt a sort of reconciliation. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-74-3)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

BEYOND THE SIXTIES SCOOP

Deborah Ironstand

During the '60s Scoop, Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and communities and relocated into non-Indigenous families and communities. In her life story *Beyond the Sixties Scoop*, Deborah Ironstand from Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve shares the long-term effects of the '60s Scoop and her journey to healing. (Goldrock Press, \$14.95 pb, 122 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927410-70-7)

**BROKEN CIRCLE: THE LIFE STORY
OF JAMES M. PETERS**

James M. Peters

James Peters, originally from the Caldwell Band of Pelee Island, was taken away from his family and community when he was four and placed in a series of foster homes until he was 16 and released from foster care onto the streets of Toronto. In his book *The Broken Circle*, Peters shares his lifelong search for the lost connections to his family and home community. (Goldrock Press, \$14.95 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927410-71-4)

**CALL ME INDIAN: FROM THE TRAUMA OF
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TO BECOMING THE
NHL'S FIRST TREATY INDIGENOUS PLAYER**

Fred Sasakamoose with Meg Masters
Sasakamoose is a storyteller, and this story, not just about his NHL career, but also about his extraordinary work as a band councillor and chief and as an inspirational speaker and role model

for future generations, will captivate a readership far beyond the world of hockey. (Viking-Penguin Random House, \$32.00 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-4001-8, available as ebook)

**DAUGHTERS OF AATAENTSIC: LIFE STORIES
FROM SEVEN GENERATIONS**

Kathryn Magee Labelle

This groundbreaking project tells the life stories of seven significant Wendat/Wandat women across North America, showing how Wendat people and place came together in Ontario, Quebec, Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, and Oklahoma, and how generations of activism became tied to notions of family, community, motherwork, and legacy from the 17th to the 21st century. (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$34.95 hc, 240 pages, with photos, diagrams, notes, index, ISBN: 978-0-228005-29-2)

I HAVE LIVED FOUR LIVES . . .

Wilfred Buck

This collection of writings from Ininev Dream Keeper (Pawami niki titi cikiw) Wilfred Buck portrays four separate stages of personal experience. The stories are designed as aids to assist in discovery and healing for Indigenous youth, but instead of being didactic, they encompass a range of hilarious and vivid recollections that revolve around visions and dreams, and that ultimately trace Buck's path to becoming a teacher in Indigenous cosmology and astronomy. (ARP Books, \$22.00 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-49-6, available as ebook)

**MITONI NIYA NĒHIYA – NĒHIYA-ISKWĒW
MITONI NIYA / CREE IS WHO I TRULY
AM – ME, I AM TRULY A CREE WOMAN**

Sarah Whitecalf, edited and translated by H. C. Wolfart and Freda Ahenakew
Sarah Whitecalf spoke Cree exclusively, and lived much of her life at Nakiwacihk/Sweetgrass Reserve on the North Saskatchewan River. Her thoughts and feelings as she copes with the impact of colonialism are printed in Cree exactly as she recorded them, with a close English translation on facing pages. (University of Manitoba Press, \$29.95 pb, 364 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-942-6, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

PEYAKOW: RECLAIMING CREE DIGNITY, A MEMOIR

Darrel J. McLeod

This sequel to McLeod's Governor General's Award-winning memoir, *Mamaskatch*, tells the story of how he builds a career in the area of Indigenous education and then in federal treaty translations and negotiations, making profound differences in the lives of others, all the while hiding his personal life and dealing with one family tragedy after another, always feeling like an imposter.

(Douglas & McIntyre, \$29.95 hc, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77162-231-8)

RUN AS ONE: MY STORY

Errol Ranville

Facing barriers of racism, poverty, addiction, and the tragedy of losing his beloved wife, Ranville overcame them to become a trailblazer in the Canadian music scene, releasing several hit songs with his C-Weed Band and receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Indigenous Music Awards in 2011. He tells his story from the earliest beginnings playing with his brothers to his place as a role model for Indigenous musicians that follow him.

(Great Plains Publications, \$24.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-060-6)

GENERAL NON-FICTION**CARRYING THE BURDEN OF PEACE: REIMAGINING INDIGENOUS MASCULINITIES THROUGH STORY**

Sam McKegney

Seeking to celebrate the diversity and strength of Indigenous masculinities, McKegney explores Indigenous literature – the work of Billy-Ray Belcourt, Gregory Scofield, Eden Robinson, Richard Van Camp, and others – for understandings of masculinity that go beyond the toxic inheritance of colonialism.

(University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-793-4, available as ebook)

CREE: LANGUAGE OF THE PLAINS / NĒHIYAWĒWIN: PASKWĀWI-PĪKISKWĒ

Jean L. Okimāsis

This newly designed edition of a comprehensive educational resource for

students of the Cree language includes revisions and new information, and links to an online language workbook and audio language labs that are also available as podcasts.

(University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 392 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-767-5, available as ebook)

DID YOU SEE US? REUNION, REMEMBRANCE, AND RECLAMATION AT AN URBAN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Survivors of the Assiniboia

Indian Residential School

Put together from memories of former students with a socio-historical reconstruction of the Assiniboia school and its position in Winnipeg and the larger Indian residential school system, this book illustrates the complexity of a specific school where forced assimilation and Indigenous resilience co-existed.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$24.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-907-5, available as ebook)

FIRST NATIONS WILDFIRE EVACUATIONS: A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES AND EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Tara K. McGee, Amy Cardinal Christianson, and First Nations Wildfire Evacuation Partnership

This evacuation guide is based on interviews with over 200 wildfire evacuees from seven First Nations. Real-life stories, checklists, and guiding questions give an overview of what to expect and how to plan for different stages of an evacuation.

(Purich-UBC Press, \$25.00 pb, 172 pages, with photos, maps, ISBN: 978-0-77488-066-4)

REGIME OF OBSTRUCTION: HOW CORPORATE POWER BLOCKS ENERGY DEMOCRACY

Edited by William K. Carroll

Anchored in sociological and political theory, this book provides hard data and empirical research to make visible the complex connections between corporate power and the extraction and use of carbon energy.

(AU Press, \$39.99 pb, 576 pages, with b/w figures, ISBN: 978-1-77199-289-3, available as ebook)

INDIGENOUS CELEBRITY: ENTANGLEMENTS WITH FAME

Edited by Jennifer Adese and Robert Alexander Innes

The wide-ranging essays in this book critically explore the theoretical, material, social, cultural, and political impacts of celebrity on and for Indigenous people. Readers will understand how Indigenous people draw on nation-specific processes of respect and recognition while at the same time navigating external assumptions and expectations.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-906-8, available as ebook)

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BLOCKADE: GIANT BEAVERS, DIPLOMACY, AND REGENERATION IN NISHNAABEWIN

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

Originally presented as the 2020 CLC Kreisel Lecture at the University of Alberta, this text reframes and re-envisioned the concept and meaning of the blockade to deepen understanding of Indigenous resistance, looking at blockades through the brilliance of beavers, or amikwag, who embody the practice of wisdom, and who build shared worlds with their dams.

(University of Alberta Press, \$12.99 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-538-2, available as ebook)

WE HAD A LITTLE REAL ESTATE PROBLEM: THE UNHERALDED STORY OF NATIVE AMERICANS & COMEDY

Kliph Nesteroff

Despite having been denied representation in the entertainment industry, Native American comedians have influenced and advanced the art form of stand-up comedy. Beginning with the wild west shows of the 1880s, Nesteroff takes a detailed look at the Indigenous comedy tradition, including profiles of Canadian performers Don Burnstick, Ryan McMahan, and Dakota Ray Herbert, among many others.

(Simon & Schuster, \$36.00 hc, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9821-0303-3)

Historian challenges the dominant settler-colonial narrative of heritage sites

Coutts calls for a progressive approach to ‘replace rear-window nationalism with forward-looking narratives’

by Paula E. Kirman

AUTHORIZED HERITAGE: Place, Memory, and Historic Sites in Prairie Canada

Robert Coutts

University of Manitoba Press
\$27.95 pb, 264 pages
with map, photographs
ISBN: 978-0-88755-926-6
Available as ebook



Robert Coutts

Heritage sites across the country are often commemorated in a way that reflects the dominant social and cultural narrative: conventional, conservative, and colonial.

In *Authorized Heritage: Place, Memory, and Historic Sites in Prairie Canada*, Winnipeg-based Robert Coutts presents a detailed examination of Prairie heritage sites and how governments are the mediators and arbitrators of what is – and isn’t – considered heritage. The book also discusses how class, gender, and sexuality are distanced from the heritage discourse.

Coutts’s career as a historian with Parks Canada for over 30 years was the impetus for the creation of *Authorized Heritage*.

“Early on I became interested in questions around how heritage becomes official or ‘authorized,’ how memory functions in regard to those histories we choose to remember and those we forget, and how critical the concept of place is to the way memories are evoked,” he explains. “I also became interested in how different historic places function in the way they communicate their narratives and their stories to the public.”

He notes that the interpretation of history is often revisionist. “How does this translate to historic sites, or does it at all? Does interpretation of the past change over time or is an authorized heritage resistant to dissimilarity and new ways of looking at the past? More directly, do

changing historiographies impact the way we look at historic places? These are all questions that informed my conception of what this book could be.”

Coutts hopes that readers will gain “a better understanding of how the places we consider to be of heritage value are commemorated, and just as importantly, how certain stories, narratives, and memories of our collective pasts are forgotten, or at least downplayed.

“As well,” he says, “I hope readers will have a better understanding of how certain versions of the past – especially in regard to place – are resisted and how competing stories and competing versions of the past have survived, especially within Indigenous communities in the West.”

In researching *Authorized Heritage*, Coutts spent time accessing various archives and government records, including unofficial Parks Canada materials. That was not his main focus, though.

“My research focused to a large degree on my own experiences, spending considerable time at most of the sites I discuss. In fact, I use Simon Schama’s phrase ‘the archive of the feet’ to describe much of my research process,” he says.

In the process, Coutts “learned more about how the past is often embroidered to present certain narratives and certain perspectives, how these stories and histories can often be one-dimensional, conventional, and reflective of traditional settler-colonial perceptions.”

In *Authorized Heritage*, Coutts also discusses the “tourist gaze” and, as he says, “how historic sites often reflect back to visitors their expectations and knowledge while authenticating what the visitor wants to see in the often imagined past of heritage.”

Coutts advocates a more constructive way of looking at historic sites.

“By viewing heritage as less a depiction of the past in the present but rather the persistence of the past in the present, the language of place can be confident and progressive,” he says, “and with new commemorations and new stories, we can replace rear-window nationalism with forward-looking narratives.”



Trailblazer in male-dominated trades shares lessons learned from working life

Louella Lester's memoir is quirky, compact, and packs a punch

by *Prairie books NOW* staff writer Marjorie Poor

GLASS BRICKS

Louella Lester

At Bay Books

\$21.95 pb, 104 pages
with black & white photos

ISBN: 978-1-988168-42-5

Available as an ebook

Winnipeg author Louella Lester has been working since she was five years old. From selling onions door to door, to cleaning pianos, to busy days writing and taking photographs after she retired from her teaching career, she has always worked at something. “I don’t feel right if I’m not learning or doing,” she says.

One of the fruits of Lester’s post-“retirement” labour is her new book, *Glass Bricks*, which is a memoir of her working life – the jobs and the lessons learned – told with humour and grit and “the odd flight of fancy” in short/flash creative non-fiction pieces and a selection of her black and white photographs.

The compact length combined with spot-on, often quirky, details and clear-eyed insights ensures that each piece packs a punch.

The title image is an apt metaphor for the working life. “Glass bricks are strong enough to hold up walls, the way you must be when you are working complicated or hard jobs,” Lester says. “But they are also fragile and can be easily broken, representing the times at work that

you might feel that you don’t measure up or things go wrong or you are tired or get hurt or you quit.”

Not everyone has had enough jobs to fill a book, especially ones so different from each other. Lester worked conventional jobs – such as serving customers in doughnut shops and completing tax forms – but she was also a trailblazer, working in male-dominated environments like diesel mechanics shops and pulp-and-paper mills.

“My parents had only daughters, so we did it all: cutting grass, cutting wood, doing housework, cooking, helping build things, fixing vehicles,” she explains. “I helped my dad a lot and never felt there were jobs a woman couldn’t do. So, it wasn’t until I went to Red River College and saw so few women in the trades courses that I really realized it was a bit different to be a woman in the diesel shop.

“Sometimes, when I was working in non-traditional jobs, I did feel some pressure – pressure that I was representing all women, and if I didn’t succeed it would negatively impact all who followed.”

Lester dedicates the book to her parents, both of whom died in 2020, saying they modelled a strong work ethic and taught her to take pride in her work. “My parents worked so hard all their lives,” she says,

“whether it was paid work or the work they did around our house and yard, building or fixing the house, or working a huge garden to feed their children.”

Now Lester is passing on what she has learned from a life of hard and varied work.

“It’s hard, and sometimes deflating, to work at something you might think is menial or uninteresting for low wages,” she says. “But

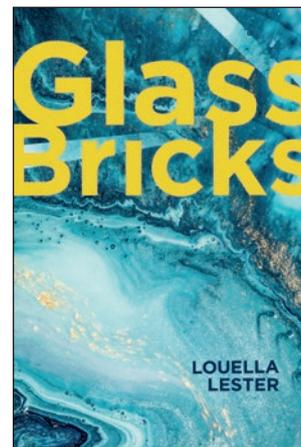
every job teaches you skills that you can use to get where you want to go. Once on your resumé, these skills show who you are and what you’re capable of doing. Every job I had taught me skills I used later, when it really mattered. And it taught me to respect and appreciate people

working in all fields, at all levels. “All work matters.” 🌿

With files from Michelle Bailey



Louella Lester



Weaving together the threads of writing and gender

Second memoir follows the unfinished stories from Fatherless

by Margaret Goldik

THE BRIDGE:

Writing Across the Binary

Keith Maillard

Freehand Books

\$22.95 pb, 272 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988298-78-8

Keith Maillard grew up knowing nothing about his father. On his father's death, Maillard was given his scrapbooks, and set out to capture everything he remembered or knew about him, writing a first memoir, *Fatherless*, published in 2019. Maillard had generated a lot of text, not all about the senior Maillard.

"About each piece of writing I had to ask myself, 'Is this about my father, is it absolutely focused on my father?' If it was," he explains, "then it went into the *Fatherless* file, and if it wasn't, it went into the file I called *The Second Book*."

The Second Book became Vancouver-based Maillard's new memoir, *The Bridge: Writing Across the Binary*. He recounts with impressive honesty not only his writing journey, but also his journey toward understanding his gender dysphoria.

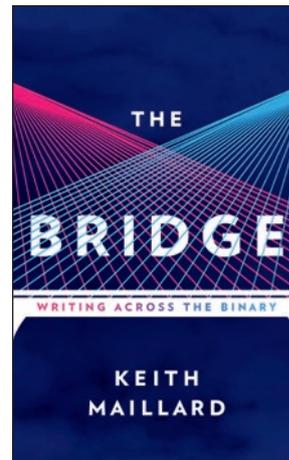
"It would take me over 60 years to arrive at a clear understanding of my problem – I was trapped inside what we now would call 'the gender binary,' the notion that there are only two choices," he says.

The two threads of *The Bridge* – writing and gender – begin in his home town of Wheeling, West Virginia. The 1940s and 1950s are beautifully evoked, with both the freedom and the rigidity of the times.

"That era we call 'the '50s' was more complex and nuanced than it is often portrayed, but the gender split was just as bad as anyone remembers, and down at the kid level it was bad indeed," says Maillard. "Everything

under the sun was labelled 'for boys' or 'for girls' and then dealt out into two neat, mutually exclusive blue and pink piles."

Maillard didn't clearly identify as either a boy or a girl, which left him baffled. As a child he had panic attacks and night terrors, but he also knew he was loved. His cousin Billy was his closest friend, and Maillard's mother and grandmother were supportive. "The sense I always got from my grandmother," says Maillard, "is that I was just fine however I was."



In the '60s Maillard was in Boston, writing for underground newspapers, and in 1970, burnt out and disillusioned with his country, he came to Canada. In the years since, Maillard has

been a creative writing teacher, journalist, poet, musician, essayist, and novelist: his first novel, *Two Strand River*, published in 1976, featured two genderfluid characters and became a cult classic.

By 2006, 11 of his 14 novels had been nominated for or winners of literary awards. His most recent novel was *Twin Studies*, published in 2018.

But he had to come to terms with being non-binary. Growing up, Maillard had no role models.

"So years later when I was writing *Two Strand River*," he says, "I was fully aware that I was writing the kind of book I would have liked to read when I was a kid."

And will there be more acceptance of non-binary genders? "There's a massive anti-trans campaign at the moment. It's been quite successful in the United Kingdom; below the border it's very much a part of the Trumpian worldview, and it's certainly alive and well in Canada," says Maillard.

"There's a lot of work for us still to do." 🌿



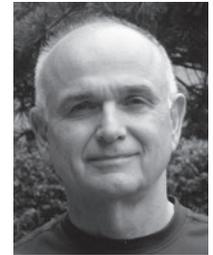
Keith Maillard

MARY MAILLARD

Refugees tell their own stories in collection edited for ‘depth, diversity, and drama’

Book offers critical perspective on bureaucratic barriers, policy failures

by Paula E. Kirman



George Melnyk



Christina Parker

FINDING REFUGE IN CANADA:

Narratives of Dislocation

Edited by George Melnyk and Christina Parker

AU Press

\$27.99 pb, 200 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77199-301-2

Available as an ebook

Canada, both now and throughout history, has usually been regarded as a welcoming country to refugees fleeing war, persecution, and famine. But what kinds of reception have refugees really encountered here?

Finding Refuge in Canada: Narratives of Dislocation, edited by George Melnyk and Christina Parker, provides personal narratives about the refugee experience in Canada, sharing the perspectives of writers from diverse backgrounds, including refugees, front-line workers, private sponsors, and civil servants.

Melnyk, who came to Canada as a refugee at the age of three, got the idea for the book after working on magazine articles about refugees. “Having a focus on refugees telling their own stories seemed like the right way to go if Canadians were to get first-hand insight into the traumas and struggles of those who seek refuge in Canada,” he says.

He felt he needed a co-editor from central Canada, where many refugees settle, so he invited Parker, an assistant professor in Social Development Studies at the University of Waterloo, to collaborate on the project.

“As an educator and researcher who has worked in diverse communities, I often found myself witnessing the experiences of refugee children firsthand – and wanted to do something to be able to share their experiences with Canadians,” Parker says.

Melnyk and Parker sought submissions from a range of people, both refugees and people who help refugees and who create new policies. The editing

process ensured that the book had “depth, diversity, and drama,” says Melnyk, who is professor emeritus of Communications, Media, and Film at the University of Calgary and has written and edited over 25 books. “Refugee stories can be spine-tingling because of the threats and danger refugees face regularly.”

The book’s extensive introduction describes how the law operates, the challenges refugees face psychologically, socially, and economically, and what can be done to make the system fairer.

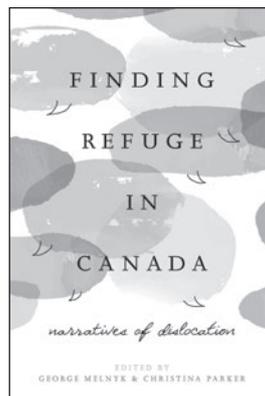
But the personal narratives are the core. “The stories by refugees and those that help them provide a window on the real problems of integration each refugee faces. These stories allow us to walk in their shoes,” says Melnyk.

“We want readers to appreciate that the reputation that Canada has developed of being a welcoming country is not always true and that bureaucratic barriers and policy failures can mean that some legitimate refugee claimants may not be treated fairly.”

Parker notes, “The global refugee crisis persists today, but people’s perceptions of refugees are constantly fluctuating. Perspectives are shaped by social media, stories, and firsthand experiences and encounters.”

They paid close attention to shifting perspectives as they edited. “As we close the book,” says Parker, “our afterword continued to evolve as we reflected on the implications of COVID-19 and the refugee processing system in Canada, which severely impacted the protection and welfare of those in most need of shelter and protection.”

Parker hopes this book will “offer a critical perspective on what it means to be a refugee in Canada and what it means to be someone who supports refugees. Many dominant narratives about refugees are challenged in this book – readers get glimpses into people’s lives, emotions, and the pangs of guilt that one feels when they have to leave their life and loved ones behind.”



MORE NON-FICTION

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

BEN WOOLFITT: RHYTHMS & SERIES

Ben Woolfitt

The more than 65 reproductions of drawings in this book – made with graphite, silver and metal leaf, and selected objects for frottage – are charged with rich psychological meaning, plumbing the depths of Woolfitt’s subconscious. Also included is an interview with the artist by AGO curators Kenneth Brummel and Alexa Greist.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$40.00 hc, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-226-9)

GRAIN ELEVATORS: BEACONS OF THE PRAIRIES

Photography by Chris Attrell, text by Christine Hanlon

At one time, almost 6,000 grain elevators defined the economy and skyline of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, but every year, their numbers dwindle. In this stunning photo collection, Attrell captures the haunting presence of those that remain to stand guard over an ever-changing agrarian lifestyle.

(MacIntyre Purcell Publishing, \$29.95 hc, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77276-159-7)

SEA SALT, LIZARDS AND CLAY: MY CERAMICS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE ROCKIES

Santo Mignosa

This book covers the expansive career of renowned Italian Canadian ceramic artist Santo Mignosa. The gifted Modernist sculptor and rigorous technician brought formal art training – in anatomy, drawing, representational and abstracted figurative art, ceramic murals, and hand-built large-scale clay sculpture – to western Canada.

(Granville Island Publishing, 118 pages, \$45.95 hc, ISBN: 978-1-989467-27-5; \$25.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-989467-32-9)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

CROSSROADS: MY STORY OF TRAGEDY AND RESILIENCE AS A HUMBOLDT BRONCO

Kaleb Dahlgren

On April 6, 2018, the bus taking the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team to a playoff game crashed, killing 16

people. Kaleb Dahlgren is one of the 13 people who survived. He tells his story, from a childhood spent learning to live with Type 1 diabetes to his remarkable recovery from severe brain trauma, and he chronicles the time he spent with the Broncos and the loving community of Humboldt, Saskatchewan.
(HarperCollins, \$32.99 hc, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-6287-7, available as ebook and audio book)

THE GIRL FROM DREAM CITY: A LITERARY LIFE

Linda Leith

Leith shares the story of how she was educated in various European cities, started writing in Budapest, and eventually returned to Montreal where she worked with a community of writers and readers to transform the city’s literary scene by founding the Blue Metropolis International Literary festival and an eponymous publishing company.
(University of Regina Press, \$21.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-785-9, available as ebook)

LIGHT THE ROAD OF FREEDOM, WOMEN’S VOICES FROM GAZA

Sahbaa Al-Barbari, edited by Ghada Ageel and Barbara Bill

This second book in the series honouring women’s perspectives on the social, material, and political realities of Palestinian life tells the story of Al-Barbari, who began her career as a school teacher and was an activist in her community. In 1967, she was exiled from Palestine and continued her activism from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Kuwait, Tunis, Libya, and Europe, until she returned to Gaza in 1996.
(University of Alberta Press, \$24.99 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-544-3, available as ebook)

NORTHERN LIGHT: POWER, LAND, AND THE MEMORY OF WATER

Kazim Ali

Ali’s childhood memories of Jenpeg, a temporary town in the forests of Manitoba where his immigrant father worked building a hydroelectric dam, did not include the knowledge that the dam was located on the unceded lands of the

Pimicikamak Nation. In this memoir that explores home, belonging, and identity, he recounts his return to Pimicikamak as an adult, when he learns about the impact of the dam, the effects of colonialism, and the community’s initiatives to preserve and strengthen their culture.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$19.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-198-9, available as ebook)

THIS ONE WILD LIFE: A MOTHER-DAUGHTER WILDERNESS MEMOIR

Angie Abdou

Abdou is surprised to discover that her daughter is shy, and so she sets out to develop Katie’s self-confidence by hiking a peak a week together over the summer holidays. This funny and poignant memoir explores parenting, marriage, and mother-daughter bonding, while examining the effects of social media, the benefits of outdoor activity, and much more.

(ECW Press, \$21.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-600-0, available as ebook)

THE SCENIC GEOLOGY OF ALBERTA: A ROADSIDE TOURING AND HIKING GUIDE

Dale Leckie

With eye-catching illustrations and photographs, geologist Dale Leckie blends storytelling with science to guide readers, cyclists, hikers, and campers through Alberta’s landscape – from Waterton Lakes National Park to Dinosaur Provincial Park, into the prairies and across northern Alberta.

(Dale Leckie, \$27.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9959082-3-9)

THE WAY OF THE GARDENER: LOST IN THE WEEDS ALONG THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Lyndon Penner

Written by a gardening expert and environmentalist, this humorous take on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage offers a new perspective, as seen through the trees, plants, and flowers along the way, which tell the history of the people and ecology of northern Spain.

(University of Regina Press, \$24.95 pb, 180 pages, with plant glossary, map, illustrations, ISBN: 978-0-88977-806-1, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

WE ARE ALL PERFECTLY FINE: A MEMOIR OF LOVE, MEDICINE AND HEALING

Jillian Horton, M.D.

Horton's funny and fresh account of her time at a meditation retreat for burned-out doctors reveals the flawed system that shapes medical professionals – training them to compartmentalize their most difficult emotions – and how unacknowledged stresses lead doctors to depression and suicide. Her book emphasizes the crucial role of compassion not only in treating others, but also in taking care of oneself.

(HarperCollins, \$23.99 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-6164-1, available as ebook and audio book)

WHITE COAL CITY: A MEMOIR OF PLACE & FAMILY

Robert Boschman

In this exploration of complex lives in industrial cities and what settlers inherit as families and as colonizers, Boschman tells of his family's life in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, a hard, hockey-obsessed, white settler town on Treaty 6 Territory located geographically in what he calls "a circle of pain," surrounded and intersected by a federal penitentiary, two provincial corrections facilities, a former tuberculosis sanitarium, an old pulp-and-paper mill, and an ancient dam.

(University of Regina Press, \$21.95 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-796-5, available as ebook)

THE WIG-MAKER

Janet Gallant and Sharon Thesen

In the voice of wig-maker Gallant, transcribed and lineated by Thesen into the form of a long poem, this powerful memoir covers a lot of ground. From a childhood spent moving from one military base to another, wondering why her mother left the family, to the revelation of her racial background, the early death of loved ones, and finally to a diagnosis of alopecia that led to her current work crafting wigs, Gallant's story of violence, grief, resilience, and transformation is like no other.

(New Star Books, \$18.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55420-171-6)

WRECK: A VERY ANXIOUS MEMOIR

Kelley Jo Burke

This memoir by a self-confessed compulsive liar centres on her grandparents' cottage with a view of a lighthouse in Maine. She explores issues of anxiety, alienation, immigration, mental health, generational trauma, the nature of memory, and the ethical and spiritual boundaries of memoir work, all in the form of comedy.

(Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-98927-444-6, available as ebook)

ESSAYS**BIG READER: ESSAYS**

Susan Olding

These exquisite essays weave personal experiences of change and loss – marital breakdown, infertility, parental care – with equally personal experiences of reading the right book (say *Anna Karenina*) or author (perhaps Keats?) at the right time.

(Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988298-81-8)

WILD ROSES ARE WORTH IT: REIMAGINING THE ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

Kevin Van Tighem

This selection of works by naturalist, hunter, conservation activist, and outdoors journalist Van Tighem offers an unflinching challenge to cherished myths and conventional wisdom in a troubled province beset with profound questions about its future. Even so, the love he feels for this place and the respect for these people resonates and inspires.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$22.00 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-485-7, available as ebook)

GENERAL NON-FICTION**ACADEMIC WELL-BEING OF RACIALIZED STUDENTS**

Edited by Benita Bunjun

Through the genres of essay, art, poetry, and photography, this book examines the experiences of and effects on racialized students in the Canadian academy, while exposing academy's lack of capacity to promote students' academic well-being and emphasizing the crucial connections that these students forge.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$25.00 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-437-1, available as ebook)

ALBERTA: A HEALTH SYSTEM PROFILE

John Church and Neale Smith

This book provides the first detailed description of Alberta's health care system and the underpinning political and social forces that have shaped it. Despite having the financial resources to develop an extensive infrastructure and to attract highly paid health professionals, Alberta's health care outcomes are mediocre compared with other jurisdictions due to a unique interplay of economic and political forces.

(University of Toronto Press, 304 pages, with figures, maps, tables, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0752-7; \$36.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2516-3; available as ebook)

BEING GERMAN CANADIAN: HISTORY, MEMORIES, GENERATIONS

Edited by Alexander Freund

Senior and junior scholars from history and related disciplines explore how multi-generational families and groups have interacted and shaped each other's integration and adaptation in Canadian society, focusing on the experiences, histories, and memories of German immigrants and their descendants.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-847-4, available as ebook)

BORDER AND RULE: GLOBAL MIGRATION, CAPITALISM, AND THE RISE OF RACIST NATIONALISM

Harsha Walia

This unflinching examination of migration as a pillar of global governance and gendered racial class formation shows that migrant and refugee crises are the inevitable outcomes of conquest, capitalist globalization, and climate change, generating mass dispossession worldwide.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$27.00 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-452-4, available as ebook)

CHOCOLATE: HOW A NEW WORLD COMMODITY CONQUERED SPANISH LITERATURE

Erin Alice Cowling

This book traces representations of chocolate in Spanish literature and historical documents, including 17th- and 18th-century letters, testimonies, and ship registers, contemporary chronicles,

and cookbooks, providing a fascinating narrative about one of the most beloved foods of all time.
(University of Toronto Press, 200 pages, \$70.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0329-1; \$27.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2720-4; available as ebook)

COVID-19 AND THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM: POSTCAPITALIST HORIZONS BEYOND NEO-LIBERALISM

Efe Can Gürcan, Ömer Ersin Kahraman and Selen Yanmaz
This book formulates a tentative revolutionary program that could take advantage of the COVID-19 environment to defeat and transcend capitalism.
(Fernwood Publishing, \$20.00 pb, 140 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-257-5)

CREATIVE CLINICAL TEACHING IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Sherri Melrose, Caroline Par, and Beth Perry
This indispensable guide for educators in health professions gives them sound pedagogical theory interspersed with creative strategies and notes from the field by clinical teachers who offer practical suggestions.
(AU Press, \$27.99 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-331-9, available as ebook)

CREATIVE TOURISM IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES: PLACE, CULTURE, AND LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Edited by Kathleen Scherf
Tourism has raised issues of social and cultural sustainability in the world's global cities. This book examines the processes, policies, and methodologies of creative tourism, paying attention to the ways place-based tourism can aid sustainable cultural development.
(University of Calgary Press, \$39.99 pb, 216 pages, with illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77385-188-4, available as ebook)

DISSENTING TRADITIONS: ESSAYS ON BRIAN D. PALMER, MARXISM, AND HISTORY

Edited by Sean Carleton, Ted McCoy, and Julia Smith
This book gathers Palmer's contemporaries, students, and sometimes critics to examine and expand on the topics and themes that have defined his career, from labour history to Marxism and communist politics, offering a useful roadmap for

scholars and activists, and underlining the importance of working-class history.
(AU Press, \$37.99 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-311-1, available as ebook)

EXTRACTIVISMS: POLITICS, ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY

Eduardo Gudynas
Extractivisms include open-pit mining, oil extraction, the spread of monocultures, and other natural resource appropriation. This book explores negative local impacts such as ecological and health degradation and violence in a comprehensive overview of the theoretical innovations being discussed in Latin America.
(Fernwood Publishing, \$20.00 pb, 150 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-176-9)

FALSE SUMMIT: GENDER IN MOUNTAINEERING NONFICTION

Julie Rak
Rak explores the role of gender politics in narratives about high-altitude mountaineering in the Himalayas and the Kakakoram to find that mountaineering as a metaphor is still the preserve of traditional white male heroism, and in practice, is not ready to welcome other ways of climbing or other kinds of climbers.
(McGill-Queen's University Press, \$34.95 pb, 272 pages, with photos, map, ISBN: 978-0-22800-627-5, available as ebook)

FINDING OUR NICHE: TOWARD A RESTORATIVE HUMAN ECOLOGY

Philip A. Loring
Loring imagines a world where people and nature thrive together. He explores the tragedies of Western society and offers examples and analyses that can guide readers in reconciling damaging settler-colonial histories and environmental missteps in favour of a more sustainable and just vision for the future.
(Fernwood Publishing, \$27.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-287-2, available as ebook)

FIRE, FOLLY AND FIASCO: WHY IT TOOK 100 YEARS TO BUILD THE MANITOBA MUSEUM

James A. Burns
Veteran museum curator Burns tells the 100-year story of building The Manitoba Museum, a story not only of frustration

and failure but also of the Manitobans who kept the dream of a provincial museum alive.
(Woolly Mammoth Publishing, \$28.00 pb, 188 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-0-9867377-0-1)

FOR THE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION OF SETTLERS: ARCHITECTURE AND IMMIGRANT RECEPTION IN CANADA, 1870–1930

David Monteyne
This architectural history of the buildings that welcomed, directed, controlled, and rejected immigrants reconstructs the experiences of people in these spaces – both immigrants and government agents – offering new ways of seeing and thinking about the historical processes of immigration.
(McGill-Queen's University Press, \$75.00 hc, 456 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-0-22800-638-1, available as ebook)

SOCIAL SERVICE, PRIVATE GAIN: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS

Jesse Hajer and John Loxley
Drawing on mainstream and unconventional economic theory, practical case studies, and empirical data, this book examines the evolution of social impact bonds and critically assesses their potential to contribute to solving the multi-faceted social challenges emerging from a context of entrenched and growing inequality.
(University of Toronto Press, 384 pages, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0328-4; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2691-7; available as ebook)

STILL LIVING THE EDGES: A DISABLED WOMEN'S READER

Edited by Diane Driedger
This follow-up to Driedger's 2010 anthology is an international reader that features articles, poetry, essays, and visual art from women with various disabilities, from nations such as Canada, the United States, Australia, Russia, and Zimbabwe. Disabled women discuss inaccessible environments, explore their identity, and challenge the physical and attitudinal barriers that exclude them from society.
(Inanna, \$29.95 pb, 260 pages, with artwork, ISBN: 978-1-77133-833-2)

Turnstone Press turns 45, stays true to its roots

**FOCUS ON
POETRY,
PRAIRIE
WRITERS
GUIDES
MANITOBA
PUBLISHER**

by Luis Reis

The year 2021 marks the 45th anniversary of Turnstone Press. As the story goes, Turnstone sprang from a get-together at a local Winnipeg pub. There, Robert Enright, Dennis Cooley, John Beaver, David Arnason, Wayne Tefs, and Daniel Lenoski discussed creating a collection of poetry books to bring light to a huge wellspring of Manitoba writing that was being overlooked by the mainstream.

Around that time, the desire to give the Prairies a voice within the flourishing field of Canadian literature was high, and was spurred on by the Manitoba Arts Council, which encouraged Turnstone's early founders to dream bigger and to start a publishing firm.

In 1976, a literary publishing program named after the hearty shorebirds that search for morsels in the rocks and driftwood began.

The first book of poetry was *In the Gutting Shed* by W. D. Valgardson, which, as legend has it, sold so many copies that it was difficult to keep them in stock.

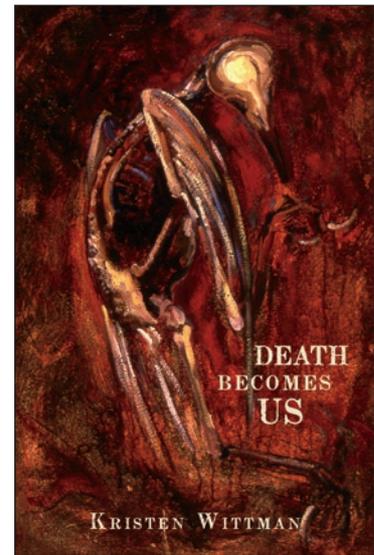
In those first years, Turnstone published the early works of Patrick Friesen, Lorna Crozier, Fred Wah, Di Brandt, and many others, receiving numerous awards and accolades along the way. In less than 10 years, they expanded beyond

poetry to include fiction and non-fiction works by artists such as Armin Wiebe, Sandra Birdsell, Karen Connelly, and Lawrence Hill.

Turnstone added its Ravenstone imprint in the late 1990s, which features mysteries and thrillers, and which later included speculative fiction. Ravenstone books include ones by authors such as

“We are driven to find new creative voices that might not otherwise find a home in the mainstream...”

JAMIS PAULSON



Michael Van Rooy, Catherine Hunter, David Annandale, Chadwick Ginther, and Karen Dudley.

According to Turnstone publisher Jamis Paulson, the company “continues to draw our direction from our early vision. We are driven to find new creative voices that might not otherwise find a home in the mainstream, and that means poetry is still a strong part of our publishing program, as are a large number of Manitoban and Prairie writers.”

Over the years, Turnstone books have won many awards such as the Governor General's Literary Award for *Waiting for Saskatchewan* and *Touch the Dragon* and a ReLit Award for *Fear Not*. Turnstone authors have been honoured with numerous regional awards and the publishing company is very proud to have won the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award and the Mary Scorer Award for Best Book by a Manitoba Publisher several times.

In fact, two award categories in the Manitoba Book Awards have strong Turnstone connections: the Manuela Dias Book Design and Illustration Awards are named after a former managing editor of the press, and the Michael Van Rooy Award for Genre



Fiction is named after one of Turnstone’s prominent Ravenstone authors.

Turnstone uses innovative strategies to promote its books and authors, co-operating with writers and community partners, and looking for creative ways to engage readers either in person or virtually.

“We have active presences on most major social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest, while also developing and sharing work through our website, turnstonepress.com,” Paulson says.

“Through these channels, we share audio recordings and videos, contests, and feature content such as My Studio, Quatrain Questions, Behind the Page, and UnderCover that give readers a peek into the creative process that brings our books into the world. We distribute three different newsletters to readers, bookstores, and librarians, and regularly hold book club draws for our new books.”

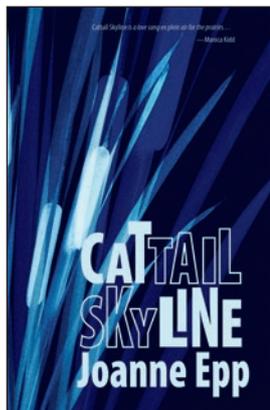
Turnstone’s list of upcoming titles includes five books of poetry – from Diane Tucker, Joanne Epp, Walter Hildebrandt, Kristen Wittman, and Kristian Enright – and the long-awaited Sergeant Neumann mystery, *Dishonour in Camp 133* by Wayne Arthurson. Also, there is *Monumental Manitoba*, a colourful book about Manitoba’s kooky roadside monuments, from Tommy the Turtle in Boissevain to Flin Flon’s Flintabbatey Flonatin. “*Monumental Manitoba* is sure to be a great road trip companion for anyone wanting to explore the faces and places

of Manitoba,” says Paulson.

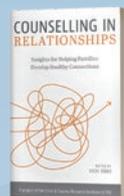
The publisher is particularly excited to promote the press’s 45th anniversary celebrations. One of the anniversary projects currently running is 2Poem2 Tuesday, a reading series honouring the company’s roots in poetry.

Turnstone poets are paired with other poetry supporters/champions, and their poetry is shared in mini-celebrations on Turnstone’s YouTube poetry channel every week. On its social media platforms, Turnstone is also featuring a retrospective of its books as part of Throwback Thursdays.

“The nature of our upcoming celebrations will be shaped, in part, by the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Paulson, “but rest assured we will continue to find even more creative ways to bring our community together to celebrate 45 years of incredible literary collaborations.” 🌿



NEW BOOKS FROM ACHIEVE PUBLISHING



Counselling in Relationships

Insights for Helping Families Develop Healthy Connections

Edited by Vicki Enns



A Little Book About Trauma-Informed Workplaces

We Envision a World Where Everyone Is Trauma-Informed

By Nathan Gerbrandt, Randy Grieser, Vicki Enns



Once a Wizard

A children’s story about finding a way through loss.

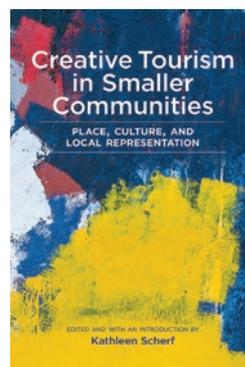
By Curtis L. Wiebe

Order them from achieve-publishing.com



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY Press

SMALL CITIES, BIG IDEAS



CREATIVE TOURISM IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES: Place, Culture, and Local Representation

Edited By Kathleen Scherf

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215 pages, 20 illustrations, 6 x 9 inches
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UNIVERSITY
of ALBERTA
PRESS



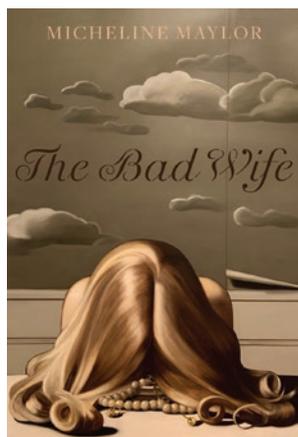
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MORE FROM TURNSTONE PRESS

CATTAIL SKYLINE

Joanne Epp

In these mindful poems, quiet in their precision, the speaker revisits childhood haunts, makes monthly observations of the urban Omand's Creek, absorbs cultural moments in Cambodia, watches the landscape roll by from train windows, and summers on a lake, finding the light and enlightenment in nature.

(Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-723-9, available as ebook)

DEATH BECOMES US

Kristen Wittman

These poems chronicle the love, illness, and death of a husband, following the seasons of nature and life, in images that move from birdsong and leafy trees to ice and tornadoes and back again, in forms ranging from the sonnet to the villanelle to the found poem. Personal challenges are juxtaposed with global events, but the joys of travel, physical activity, and quiet meditation are never overlooked.

(Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 164 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-732-1, available as ebook)

NOSTALGIA FOR MOVING PARTS

Diane Tucker

Childhood and adolescent experiences are evoked through the clothing styles and pop music of the '70s; reflections on adult life and relationships turn into odes to wine and pay phones; the gentle memories of summers at the lake suggest contentment, yet winter meditations draw out a sense of melancholy. These poems examine the life cycles of emotions in ways both humorous and profound.

(Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 90 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-727-7, available as ebook)

POSTMODERN WEATHER REPORT: A MYTH OF SPACE SET PREDOMINANTLY ON THE PRAIRIE

Kristian Enright

As the title indicates, Enright employs all the elements of postmodernism, such as metanarrative, collage of various forms, and intertextuality, to playfully reflect on science, semantics, pop culture, and philosophy within the psychic space of the Prairie landscape.

(Turnstone Press, \$21.95 pb, 252 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-697-3, available as ebook)

DISHONOUR IN CAMP 133

Wayne Arthurson

In this follow-up to *The Traitors of Camp 133*, Captain Mueller is dead, apparently by his own hand, but Sergeant Neumann isn't convinced, and so searches for the truth among treacherous cliques of blackshirts, legionnaires, and communist sympathizers.

(Ravenstone Books, \$16.95 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-621-8)

MONUMENTAL MANITOBA

Meghan Kjartanson

Kjartanson tells the stories of the often wacky monuments of over 60 sites of interest throughout Manitoba – from the giant Van Gogh sunflowers of Altona to the Happy Rock of Gladstone, from Sara the camel in Glenboro to Bruce the mosasaur in Morden – in this guide to diverse communities.

(Turnstone Press, \$27.50 pb, 200 pages, with colour photos throughout, ISBN: 978-0-88801-665-2)

Tortoises support transition to middle school in tale about maturity

Patti Edgar drew on old interest in handwriting for character of Anna

by Amanda Sanders

ANNA ANALYST

Patti Edgar

Yellow Dog-Great Plains

\$14.95 pb, 112 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77337-056-9



Patti Edgar

Calgary-based author Patti Edgar “wanted to write a novel about a close childhood friendship at a crossroads.” The result is *Anna Analyst*, which follows Anna, who narrates and is always open about her foibles, and her best friend, Lana, as they make the transition from elementary to middle school.

Each has different ideas of what the change will bring, and the two are at odds as a result.

“Leaving behind the comforts of elementary school can be exciting and intimidating; some kids feel ready and some don’t,” says Edgar. “Anna and Lana are approaching this impending change differently and that’s put a wedge in their friendship.”

Lana wants to mature – earn some money, wear sophisticated clothing, hang out with boys. Anna doesn’t see why everything has to change, just because they’re changing schools – she wants to spend summer days as usual at the mini golf course. The girls have a few heated conversations, and it seems as if Lana may be moving on with a new friend.

“Luckily,” says Edgar, “they have a whole summer to figure it out and supportive people in their lives who help them.”

Inspired by a childhood interest in graphology, which is the study of handwriting, Edgar dug out her old book on handwriting analysis as research. She explains the appeal: “The idea that handwriting could help me understand my place in the world was really intriguing.”

Like Edgar as a child, Anna has a “childhood fascination with this fading idea that handwriting provides a window into someone’s true self.” While

analyzing handwriting over the summer, Anna learns that “graphology’s best use is for spotting forgeries.”

The animals in *Anna Analyst* almost steal the story, especially

Salsa and Nachos, Anna’s tortoises that her family inherited from her father’s college roommate. While Edgar doesn’t have experience with owning tortoises herself, after all her research, she believes they are a good choice.

She says, “Tortoises are perfect for Anna because, like her, they prefer the comforts of a cozy shell and may take a little while longer to get to their destination.”

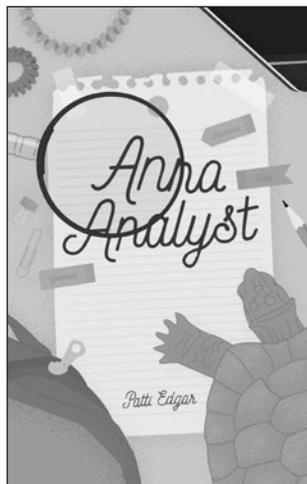
Animal-related conflict arises when Lana gets a job looking after Charlie, a rescue dog. Anna sees dogs as a threat to her tortoises, and it doesn’t help that Anna’s mother takes a special liking to Charlie.

Edgar describes Anna as a “quirky, self-assured character” who pushed the author to tell her story.

Even so, Anna is young, and slow to accept change, wanting her life to remain the same comfortable one she’s always had. Edgar says, “Anna is not very self-aware, which is fun for the reader who may recognize her missteps before she does.”

Throughout the events of the book, Anna is forced to mature, despite her resistance to the idea. When she has to deal with a bad decision she’s made, she also has to realize that change is inevitable. The author wanted her to grow over the summer without losing what makes her unique.

“Change,” says Edgar, “while it can be difficult, can also make life richer.”



Nelson stretches into two genres new to her with pair of releases

Dreams of carnival sideshow in YA fantasy novel, and children's book about first day of school

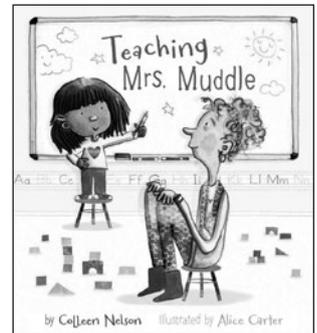
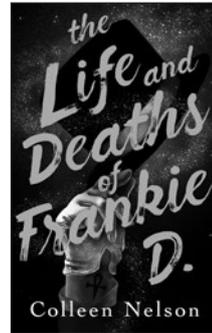
by Ian Goodwillie

THE LIFE AND DEATHS OF FRANKIE D.

Colleen Nelson
Dundurn Press
\$14.99 pb, 264 pages
ISBN: 978-1-4597-4758-6
Available as an ebook

TEACHING MRS. MUDDLE

Colleen Nelson
Illustrated by Alice Carter
Pajama Press
\$19.95 hc, 32 pages
ISBN: 978-1-77278-131-1



abandoned in an alley as a child and has no memory about her past. The only clue to her identity lies in a rare skin condition called lamellar ichthyosis, which gives her dry, flaky skin that looks reptilian.” Things start to get really interesting for Frankie when she starts dreaming of a 100-year-old carnival sideshow and a performer known as Alligator Girl. The dreams start to interfere with real life and, while Frankie is pretty tough, she has to deal with circumstances far beyond her comfort level.



Colleen Nelson

One might ask what led Nelson to bring such an interesting setting into the story. As it turned out, she was inspired by a Winnipeg institution. Nelson describes being at a historic theatre in Winnipeg called the Metropolitan. “It’s a gorgeous building, completely refurbished, but with all the original character.” It was there that her mind started wandering, and she began building this unique, engaging story.

But Nelson then had to switch gears for *Teaching Mrs. Muddle*, a story about Kayla’s first day of kindergarten. It is certainly a far cry from dreaming about carnival sideshows.

Apparently, working on a children’s book had been in the back of Nelson’s mind for a long time.

“When I first started writing 16 years ago, I wanted to write children’s books,” she says. “Then

I realized how difficult it is to write a good one and switched to young adult and middle grade.”

She worked on *Teaching Mrs. Muddle* for a while and learned a lot about the process of writing children’s books. “It’s a totally different type of storytelling compared to novels,” she says.

Naturally, a major difference between working on a YA novel and a picture book would be the artwork. That is where Alice Carter joins the story.

An experienced and seasoned children’s book artist, Carter enjoys working in the medium. “I love the limitless possibilities of illustrating picture books,” she says. “There are so many ways to tell a story within a book’s pages; use of colour, interesting compositions, secondary stories happening in the background, and on and on.”

And the first time she read the manuscript for *Teaching Mrs. Muddle*, she knew this was the story for her. “I also love filling my illustrations with lots of amusing details, and having a story set in a school allowed me to have a lot of fun with that,” she says.

For Nelson, working on two books that are so dissimilar from each other was an interesting experience. “Honestly, every book is different,” she says. “They all have their challenges.”

The best writers are always stretching themselves, looking for challenges. Some do this by trying different genres. After nine books of realistic fiction (and two of futuristic sci-fi) for middle years and YA readers, Winnipeg-based Colleen Nelson has, within a year, published books in two genres new to her – a picture book, *Teaching Mrs. Muddle*, and a YA fantasy novel, *The Life and Deaths of Frankie D.*

The Life and Deaths of Frankie D. follows a 17-year-old girl who is dealing with serious problems. Nelson describes her as “a girl battling a lot of demons. She was



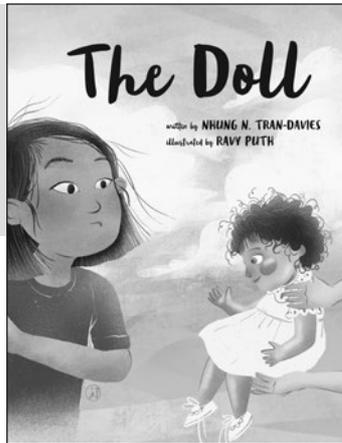
Tale of a touching gift passed on to a new refugee family turns into picture book

Doll originally given to Tran-Davies became part of museum exhibit

by Laura McKay

THE DOLL

Nhung N. Tran-Davies
 Illustrated by Ravy Puth
 Second Story Press
 \$19.95 hc, 24 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-77260-165-7



For Nhung N. Tran-Davies, her autobiographical picture book *The Doll*, illustrated by Ravy Puth, isn't just personal – it's a book four decades in the making.

When her family first arrived in Canada as refugees from the Vietnam War, their sponsors' daughter, Adrienne, gave her the eponymous doll.

"Having come from war and poverty, that doll came to symbolize for me the kindness, generosity, and compassion of so many Canadians," Tran-Davies explains. In particular, the doll reminds her of the people who sponsored her family to come to Canada, particularly Adrienne, to whom the book is dedicated.

As her family settled into life in Canada and Tran-Davies grew older, she kept the doll on her shelf as a treasured reminder of the kindness of strangers. "Knowing that all that I have and all that I've become are because of them, I live to honour their kindness and to pay [it] forward," she says.

A few years ago, Tran-Davies felt compelled to act when she heard about the war in Syria.

"Seeing the thousands of desperate refugees, the crammed boats, the reports of many perishing at sea brought back memories of our own journey," says Tran-Davies. She gathered her friends to sponsor two refugee families. Then "it was my turn to stand at the airport gates to give a doll to little Alma, a child refugee from Syria."



Nhung N. Tran-Davies

That moment was caught on camera by CBC broadcasters and, through social media, captured the hearts of people around the world. Knowing that her story had had such an impact on so many people inspired Tran-Davies to write the book.

The publication process was full of surprises, but of the best kind. "What I didn't expect was Ravy reaching out from Montreal to talk to me, to get to know me, to get a sense of my vision for the story," she explains. "I cried when I first

saw the illustrations." The artist even captured the original doll's cinnamon-coloured hair.

Tran-Davies's doll has become a traveller, too. In 2018, it was part of a temporary exhibit called *Refuge Canada* at the Canadian Museum of Immigration. This exhibit is now travelling across the country until 2024.

"I find it funny that while most of us are stuck at home with the 2020 COVID upheaval, she continues to travel across the country," says Tran-Davies. "In fact, I'm a little envious."

Having one of her personal possessions in a nationwide exhibit has been humbling for Tran-Davies. "It moves me to know that the doll is there," she says, and that it "could possibly change the course of someone else's life."

"It warms my heart to know our story is recognized as an important part of Canadian history."

Tran-Davies hopes her book can provide similar insights to readers. "Most of all," she says, "I'd like readers to be empowered with the knowledge that they can positively change the course of someone else's life. That is, for them to appreciate that a seemingly small act of kindness in a moment of time can ripple forth beyond our doors and neighbourhoods, across the world, and through the generations." ❁

Award-winning series comes together in one adventuresome volume

Mutala draws inspiration from grandparents, who immigrated to Saskatchewan in 1911–12

by Shirley Byers

BABA'S BABUSHKA:
Magical Ukrainian Adventures
 Marion Mutala
 Illustrated by Amber Rees, Wendy
 Siemens, and Olha Tkachenko
 Your Nickel's Worth Publishing
 \$39.95 hc, 184 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-988783-61-1

Marion Mutala's *Baba's Babushka: Magical Ukrainian Adventures* is an all-in-one gathering of the three books in her award-winning *Baba's Babushka* series: *A Magical Ukrainian Christmas*, *A Magical Ukrainian Easter*, and *A Magical Ukrainian Wedding* – along with the brand new *A Magical Ukrainian Journey*.

The stories feature Natalia, a blonde-braided little girl who is missing her recently deceased baba. With the help of a magical babushka, Natalia travels back in time to Ukraine where she experiences Christmas, Easter, a wedding, and a visit to Kyiv that her grandparents took just before she was born.

The stories all start in Hafford, Saskatchewan, says Mutala, because her own Dido and Baba who immigrated from Ukraine in 1911



Marion Mutala



Amber Rees



Wendy Siemens



Olha Tkachenko

Oleg Lipchenko, is an award-winning illustrator. “He taught me drawing and painting when I was small,” she

and 1912 settled on a farm in that area. “My grandparents were my inspiration,” she says. “I always wondered what life was like for them as new immigrants.”

Mutala recalls a family photo: “My baba was wearing a babushka like all married women at the time – so I created a magic babushka, which solves my problem of time travelling.”

The illustrations in the book are based on people in Mutala’s family. “I am the little girl, Natalia, and my dad, August Mutala, is the dido,” she says. Her baba and dido appear in a photograph on the wall in each book, and her mom, Sophie Dubyk,

is in the sky lovingly watching over Natalia in each story.

Saskatoon-based Wendy Siemens, the illustrator for the Christmas and Easter books, grew up in a family of artists. “I have been an artist all my life, as is my brother Grant,” she

says. “We both were inspired by our mother who painted large and difficult works constantly when we were children.”

Olha Tkachenko, illustrator for *A Magical Ukrainian Journey*, is also from a family of artists – her father,

says. “He also inspired me to try the career of illustrator.”

Now Tkachenko lives in Toronto where she runs a successful illustrator’s business. She’s illustrated more than 30 books, including her own series of books based on Ukrainian folk tales, in the past four years.

“I’ve worked on a few of Marion’s books before,” says Tkachenko, “and I really love to cooperate with her. I’ve been working on this project at the time of the pandemic, and it was a gift for me; I felt like I got a trip to my homeland I’m missing so much.”

Amber Rees, illustrator of *A Magical Ukrainian Wedding*, is newer to book illustration, having worked mainly as an animator, sculptor, and puppet fabricator in film and TV in Saskatoon.

“The wonderful story and Marion’s lovely warmth and enthusiasm made it really easy to want to participate,” she says about taking on this project. “Illustrating a book had been one of my life goals, so it was a welcome challenge.”

Mutala fans can expect more books soon. Watch for a murder mystery, *The Mechanic’s Wife*, and *Live Well*, a book of short stories, coming out this year.

“I get ideas all the time,” Mutala says. “It seems the more I write, the more the ideas flow.”



MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

PICTURE BOOKS

BUBBLES TOOK A TRIP: A MOSTLY TRUE TALE ABOUT AN ADVENTUROUS DOG FROM THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES

Billi J. Miller, with the guidance of her daughters Madeline & Kate Bubbles, a Bernese Mountain Dog who lives with the Miller family on their farm in Alberta, decides to go for a walk and gets picked up on the highway by a nice woman who takes him home to play with her other dogs.

(Billi J. Miller, \$20.00 pb, 52 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7774186-0-1, available as ebook)

THE CHILDREN'S MOON

Judy Cook, illustrated by Sonia Nadeau Sunny and his grandmother celebrate the Children's Moon, that special time when the moon is bright in the sky along with the sun during the day. They dance and explore together, cherishing precious moments with each other. Also included in this learning resource are scientific facts about astronauts and the history of moon and space exploration.

(FriesenPress, 52 pages, \$22.99 (USD) hc, ISBN: 978-1-5255-7804-5; \$10.99 (USD) pb, ISBN: 978-1-5255-7805-2; available as ebook)

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU ... NO MATTER WHAT!

Lee Murry and Kori Upshall, illustrated by Emily Johnson

This charming picture book explores the unconditional love a grandmother has for her granddaughter, as she responds to a variety of scenarios beginning with "What if I...?"

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-65-9)

MOLLY'S MAGIC DOOR

Kirsten Link, illustrated by Jason Doll Uncle Jake has come from Ireland, and he brought Molly a gift – a magic door that allows leprechauns to travel through, but only on St. Patrick's Day. If she can catch the magical fellow, he will grant her a wish!

(Peanut Butter Press, \$19.95 hc, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927735-67-1)

PRAIRIE ABCs

Jocey Asnong

This early concept board book showcases the diversity, habitats, native animals, and outdoor activities enjoyed across the Prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, while teaching young readers the alphabet and letter recognition.

(Rocky Mountain Books, 32 pages, \$12.00 board book, ISBN: 978-1-77160-497-0; \$10.00 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77160-498-7; available as ebook)

THE RUBBER BOOT THIEF

Amy Doerksen

On a grey day, Joe puts on his blue rubber boots and goes out to splash and play in the puddles and mud, only to find himself in a tricky and sticky situation! Charming illustrations were coloured (mostly) by the author's son, Coulter Doerksen Sokolosky. (FriesenPress, 36 pages, \$19.49 hc, ISBN: 978-1-5255-8698-9; \$9.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-5255-8697-2; available as ebook)

TIME TO FLY!

Valerie Wiebe

Gorgeous impressionistic paintings portray bird's-eye views of rural Prairie landscapes in this call to explore the world and to find one's place in it. The art and verse provoke questions like "How does it feel to be so small in such a big world?" (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$24.95 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-64-2)

EARLY YEARS FICTION

EVERY HOME NEEDS AN ELEPHANT

Jane Heinrichs

When nine-year-old Sarah comes home with a pet elephant named Mr. Smith, at first, things look difficult. Mr. Smith has a hard time making it up the apartment stairs and squeezing through doors, and he doesn't fit into her mom's busy schedule very well. But Mr. Smith is good at arranging flowers, and many other happy things occur as a result of Mr. Smith joining the family!

(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2430-0, available as ebook)

HARE B&B

Bill Richardson, illustrated by Bill Pechet After Harriet/Harry's parents are tricked and killed by a coyote in disguise, Harry and her seven siblings are left to fend for themselves. They turn their parents' empty bedroom into a successful hare bed and breakfast, but when a particularly repulsive-looking rabbit requests a room, Harry is suspicious, and she and her siblings put a clever plan into action. (Running the Goat, \$22.95 hc, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927917-38-1)

MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

BIRDSPELL

Valerie Sherrard

Corbin has spent his life keeping people at a distance – his mother's mental illness means he'll be moving and changing schools soon anyway. But a parakeet named Sitta, a girl named Izelle, a toddler named Molly, and the older neighbour Mr. Zinbendal start to break through all his defences.

(DCB-Cormorant Books, \$13.95 pb, 198 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-613-3, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

Powerful Voices
Unforgettable Stories

NEW!

Stand Like A Cedar
Heidi L. Campbell
Caroline Vitor

The Frog Mother
Bradstreet

A Girl Called ECHO
David A. Robertson

WE DREAM MEDICINE DREAMS
Paula Bonino

SUGAR FALLS
David A. Robertson

Highwater Press
highwaterpress.com

FINDERS KEEPERS

Melanie McFarlane

Macy is an amateur treasure hunter along the shores of Buffalo Pound Lake in Saskatchewan. She finds a mermaid who was kidnapped by “the Beast” and has escaped, but who needs a missing magic shell to reconnect with her family. Macy needs to find the shell before the Beast does! (Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2769-1, available as ebook)

LOST ON THE PRAIRIE

MaryLou Driedger

Set between Kansas and Saskatchewan in 1907, this coming-of-age novel follows 12-year-old Peter who gets separated from his family on the way to set up a homestead. Travelling on his own, he faces dangers and meets all kinds of people, and becomes more resourceful, courageous, and self-reliant. (Wandering Fox-Heritage House, \$14.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77203-368-7, available as ebook)

TRIP OF THE DEAD

Angela Misri

Trip is a raccoon who has survived the zombie apocalypse with the help of a kind group of cats, a hamster, an owl, and a few humans, but he seems to be the only raccoon left. Then he hears about a group of raccoons being kept captive by some humans, and he, with a few of his loyal friends, sets off to help them. (DCB-Cormorant Books, \$13.95 pb, 174 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-596-9, available as ebook)

TUNNELS OF TIME

Mary Harelkin Bishop

This updated edition of Bishop’s first book in the Moose Jaw

Time Travel Adventure series has shorter chapters, black-and-white illustrations, historical notes, an author Q & A, and discussion questions. It tells the story of 13-year-old Andrea who, while in Moose Jaw to be in her cousin’s wedding, falls into one of the famous secret tunnels and is pulled into the 1920s.

(DriverWorks Ink, \$15.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927570-57-9)

MIDDLE YEARS NON-FICTION

PROUD TO PLAY: CANADIAN LGBTQ+ ATHLETES WHO MADE HISTORY

Erin Silver

This book tells the stories of 12 Canadian athletes – including speed skater Anastasia Bucsis, volleyball players Betty Baxter and Chris Voth, swimmer Mark Tewksbury, and pair skater Eric Radford – describing the challenges they faced when they came out and how they used their platforms to push for LGBTQ+ rights.

(Lorimer, \$24.95 pb, 112 pages, with full-colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1512-6, available as ebook)

YA FICTION

MR. UNIVERSE

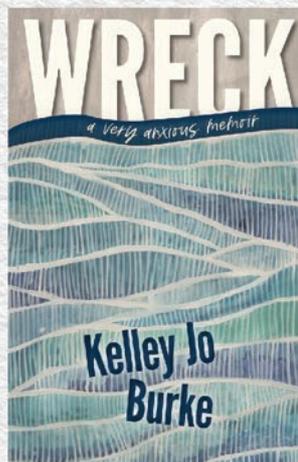
Arthur Slade

In this high-interest novel, Michael, while visiting his scientist uncle, accidentally gets sent to an alternate universe where he meets Emily. For some reason, grey lizard-eyed men are trying to erase them, so they need to find a way back to Michael’s original world.

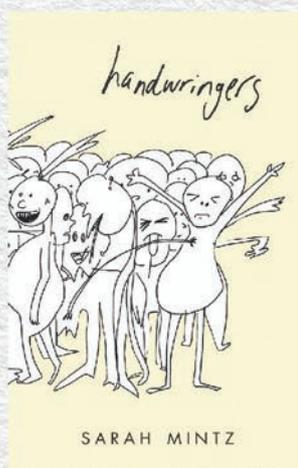
(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2688-5, available as ebook)



URGENT HEARTFELT POETRY FROM AN URBAN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE.



RAW HONESTY, COMEDY, TRAGEDY, AND GRACE. READ THIS WRAPPED IN A WEIGHTED BLANKET.



DARK, FUNNY, FLASH FICTION CONTEMPLATING POP CULTURE INFLUENCES & JEWISH IDENTITY.

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Les Métis de Saint-Laurent en histoire et en images selon Gisèle Reynolds

L'aventure d'une fille de la ville qui visite sa cousine d'une communauté de pêcheurs de doré jaune

par Lucien Chaput

LE DORÉ DE SAINT-LAURENT

Gisèle Reynolds

Éditions des Plaines

11,95 \$ papier, 36 pages

ISBN : 978-2-89611-824-3

Disponible en livre numérique

Reynolds represents Métis of Saint-Laurent in both folk art and story

The adventure of a city girl visiting her cousin's pickerel-fishing community

by Lucien Chaput

LE DORÉ DE SAINT-LAURENT

Gisèle Reynolds

Éditions des Plaines

\$11.95 pb, 36 pages

ISBN: 978-2-89611-824-3

Available as an ebook

L'album jeunesse *Le doré de Saint-Laurent* est un beau petit récit ancré dans ce qui donne à ce village métis du Lac Manitoba son caractère : la pêche commerciale sur glace pour le doré, une tradition et un mode de vie aussi vieux que la province elle-même. Une aventure que raconte Lucille, une jeune fille de la grande ville qui visite sa cousine métisse Jocelyne à Saint-Laurent au Manitoba.

L'aventure de Lucille, c'est un peu celle de l'auteure et illustratrice Gisèle Reynolds. « Ça fait depuis que j'ai 13 ans que je fréquente cet endroit-là », dit Reynolds. « Mon père avait un chalet à Saint-Laurent. On regardait toujours de notre arrière-cour les gens qui allaient faire la pêche sur glace.

« Mais je suis montée en Bombardier pour la première fois lorsque j'étais dans ma cinquantaine. Et puis, *wow*, ça m'a ouvert les yeux! C'est ça qui m'a inspirée à raconter cette histoire-là. »

De retour au Manitoba après avoir travaillé dans les trois autres provinces de l'Ouest, la mère de deux enfants décide, suite à un accident il y a une douzaine d'années, de consacrer plus de temps à sa passion pour les arts plastiques.

« Je fais de la sculpture en papier et des peintures. J'ai un style plus comique que réaliste », explique l'artiste autodidacte originaire de Saint-Boniface. « C'est un style



Gisèle Reynolds

The picture book *Le doré de Saint-Laurent* is a wonderful little story rooted in what gives a certain Lake Manitoba Métis community its character: commercial ice fishing for pickerel, a tradition and a way of life as old as the province itself. It's an adventure told by Lucille, a young girl from the big city who visits her Métis cousin Jocelyne in Saint-Laurent, Manitoba.

Lucille's adventure is also author and illustrator Gisèle Reynolds's adventure. "I've been coming to this part of the province since I was 13," says Reynolds. "My father had a cottage in St. Laurent. From our backyard we would watch the people who went ice fishing.

"But I had my first ride in a Bombardier when I was in my 50s. Wow, it really opened my eyes! This is what inspired me to tell this story."

Back in Manitoba after having worked in the three other western provinces, the mother of two decided a dozen years ago, after a life-changing accident, to nurture her passion for fine arts.

"I make paper sculptures and paintings. I have a style that is more comical than realistic," says the self-trained artist born in St. Boniface. "It's in the folk art tradition, which is my preferred style."

Reynolds has given workshops in schools, several of them at École Aurèle-Lemoine in St. Laurent. "I would bring my paper, my glue, and my paints. For one full

folklorique, qu'on appelle parfois art naïf. C'est mon style préféré. »

Reynolds a donné des ateliers scolaires à l'École Aurèle-Lemoine de Saint-Laurent. « J'amenais mon papier, ma colle, mes peintures. Pendant une heure de temps on s'amusait », dit-elle. « Les enfants sculptaient et peignaient. Je réalisais de petits projets avec eux. Une fois, on a fait des poissons pour le festival de la pêche sur glace, le festival Manipogo. »

Reynolds a pris sa retraite il y a un an. Dit-elle, « J'ai rassemblé toutes ces illustrations, j'en ai fait d'autres pour remplir le cap comme on dit et j'ai écrit un texte. Et voilà! C'était devenu un petit livre. »

Malgré ses antécédents professionnels, Reynolds, née Rougeau, a choisi d'écrire le livre en français. Une édition de langue anglaise, *Ice Fishing in St. Laurent*, paraîtra cet automne.

« Durant ma carrière, l'anglais, ça a toujours été ma langue de travail. J'ai été journaliste à Saint-Paul-des-Métis en Alberta, au *St. Paul Journal*. J'écrivais uniquement en anglais. C'était du temps où les Franco-Albertains voulaient leurs propres écoles. Je parlais aux parents en français et puis je rédigeais les articles en anglais », dit Reynolds.

« Mais pour ce livre, il fallait que je l'écrive en français. C'est la langue de la région, de la communauté des Métis de Saint-Laurent. Et puis, il me semble que ça coulait mieux en français. »

hour, we would have fun,” she says. “The students would sculpt and paint. Together, we undertook some small projects. One time, we made some fish for the ice fishing festival called the Manipogo Festival.”

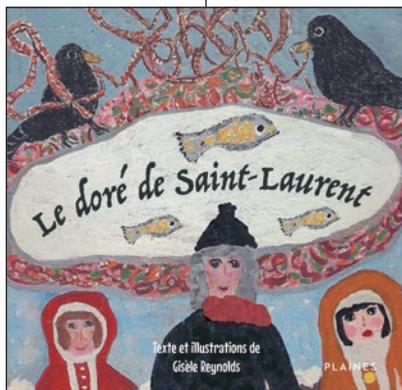
Reynolds retired about a year ago. She says, “I assembled all my paintings, I painted some others to cover all the bases, as we say, and I wrote the story. And presto! It had become a book.”

Although most of her professional life was in English, Reynolds née Rougeau chose to write the book in French. An English version of the book, *Ice Fishing in St. Laurent*, will be published this fall.

“During my career, English was always the language of work. I was a journalist in Saint-Paul-des-Métis in Alberta, at the *St. Paul Journal*.

I would write exclusively in English. This was at the time when the Franco-Albertans wanted their own schools. I would talk to the parents in French and then write the articles in English,” says Reynolds.

“But this book, I had to write it in French. It's the language of the community, of the Métis of Saint-Laurent. And also, it seemed to flow better in French.”



VIENNENT DE PARAÎTRE EN FRANÇAIS

LES AURORES BORÉALES – LE GRAND SPECTACLE DE CORBEAU

David Bouchard, illustrations de Jasyn Lucas

Corbeau, le Joueur de tours, déploie ses talents légendaires et transforme le ciel de la nuit en tableau. Un ouvrage pour les jeunes à partir de douze ans. In this book for young readers 12 years old and older, Corbeau, the mythical trickster Raven of many First Nations oral histories, deploys his legendary talent to transform the evening sky into a work of art.

(Vidacom, conte jeunesse, 22,95 \$ couverture rigide, 32 pages, couleur, ISBN : 978-1-989282-88-5)

LE MANITOBA, TERRE DE L'INATTENDU

Texte et photographies de Michel Grandmaison

Ce beau livre de l'auteur et photographe réputé Mike Grandmaison célèbre la beauté naturelle et la nature indomptable de cette magnifique province située au plein cœur du continent. This coffee table book by the renowned author and photographer Mike Grandmaison is a celebration of the natural beauty and the untameable nature of this magnificent province located at the heart of the continent.

(Vidacom, beau livre, 29,95 \$ couverture rigide, 128 pages, ISBN : 978-1-77461-000-8)

MANITOBAINES ENGAGÉES

Dirigé par Lise Gaboury-Diallo et Michelle Smith

Cet ouvrage regroupe plus d'une centaine de profils de femmes engagées au parcours unique du Manitoba, la première province à leur accorder le droit de vote. This anthology includes over 100 profiles of remarkable women from Manitoba, the first Canadian province to grant them the right to vote. (Éditions du Blé, essai/anthologie, 29,95 \$ papier, 368 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-30-1, disponible en livre numérique)

MON ÉCOLOGIE

Alasdair Rees

Dans cette recontre de la physique et de la philosophie sont décortiquées avec soin le processus de la nature tout comme les

Un recueil qui rétablit le rapport de force dans les discussions sur la sexualité et les relations

De ses anciens journaux intimes, O'Reilly puise une poésie franche et candide

par Liz Katynski

BOUSSOLE FRANCHE

Amber O'Reilly

Les Éditions du Blé

15,00 \$ papier, 100 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924915-27-1

Disponible en livre numérique

Poète francophone Amber O'Reilly s'est replongé dans ses vieux journaux qu'elle a écrits comme adolescente, pour écrire son premier livre, un recueil de poésie.

« Les poèmes qui ressortent de là, je les retiens », dit l'auteur de *Boussole franche*. « Maintenant, je ne suis plus la même personne. Il y a une distance. J'avais besoin de ça pour guérir. Ces expériences m'ont vraiment formé. »

Née à Yellowknife, où ses parents ont déménagé de l'Ontario pour le travail, elle a aussi passé un bout de temps en Colombie-Britannique, à Montréal, et en Amérique latine. De Yellowknife et le Nord, dit-elle, « J'ai besoin de cette place. Il y a un rythme de vie différent là-bas, avec plus d'activités hors du professionnel. »



Amber O'Reilly

Mais elle a aussi un beau réseau à Winnipeg, où elle réside présentement. Avec un lancement virtuel, un projet avec la radio communautaire Envol 91 FM pour enregistrer ses poèmes, et son livre intégré à un programme d'études à l'Université de Saint-Boniface où elle a complété son baccalauréat en arts avec une concentration en études internationales, elle est très reconnaissante, disant, « La communauté me donne tellement d'appui. »

Elle explique le titre de son livre. « La poésie est un peu la boussole de toutes mes expériences de vie, qui m'a guidée. C'est une oeuvre très franche. J'ai regardé les saisons de ma vie, quelques exemples de l'enfance, de mon adolescence, de ma vingtaine, et les lieux qui m'ont vraiment marquée. »

Poetry collection aims to take back power in discussing sexuality, relationships

O'Reilly pulls from old journals with frank and candid collection

by Liz Katynski

BOUSSOLE FRANCHE

Amber O'Reilly

Les Éditions du Blé

\$15.00 pb, 100 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924915-27-1

Available as an ebook

Francophone poet Amber O'Reilly dove into old journals that she wrote as an adolescent to write her first book, a collection of poetry.

“The poems that came from them, I hold onto,” says the author of *Boussole franche*. “Today, I am no longer the same person. There is a distance. I needed that in order to heal. These experiences really made me who I am today.”



Born in Yellowknife, where her parents moved from Ontario for work, she has also spent time in British Columbia, Montreal, and Latin America. Of Yellowknife and the North, she says, “I need this place. The rhythm of life is different there, with more to do outside of work.”

But she also has a great network in Winnipeg, where she now lives. With a virtual launch for her book, a project with community radio station Envol 91 FM recording her poems, and her book included in a program of study at Université de Saint-Boniface where she earned her bachelor of arts with a major in international studies, she is very appreciative, saying, “The community gives me so much support.”

She explains the title of her book, which means frank or candid compass. “Poetry is a bit like the compass for all of my life experiences, guiding me. It’s a very honest work. I looked at the seasons of my life, with some

Dans sa poésie, elle écrit l'histoire de la rupture de couples et de son rapport avec son corps.

« Je parle beaucoup de la sexualité, des relations intimes avec des partenaires », dit O'Reilly.

« J'ai cherché à parler de ça, de ces choses qu'on n'entend pas assez. Au Manitoba, dans la francophonie, c'est souvent absent. J'encourage d'autres femmes à reprendre leur vécu et à oser en parler. La sexualité des femmes est interprétée souvent par des hommes. Ça a été une expérience de prise de pouvoir, de raconter certains aspects. On peut jamais trop en faire. Ça va normaliser l'affaire. »

L'adolescence n'est pas facile et ça prend l'exemple de d'autres, des confidences, pour que les femmes puissent apprendre et grandir. « Ces confidences nous influencent et nous habitent aussi. On apporte un peu de l'univers en nous », O'Reilly dit.

« La poésie, c'est très thérapeutique. J'écris pour moi-même. Si mes textes trouvent un écho chez d'autres, tant mieux. J'ai pris le contrôle de ma vie. Si les jeunes trouvent de l'inspiration, de la force dans ça – je ne veux pas placer d'attentes là-dessus, mais si j'y arrive, je serai très heureuse. » 🌿

examples from childhood, adolescence, my 20s, and the places that really influenced my life.”

In her poetry, she writes about the breakup of couples and about her relationship with her body.

“I talk a lot about sexuality, intimate relationships with partners,” says O'Reilly.

“I wanted to speak about this, the things we don't hear enough about. In Franco-Manitoba, this is often absent. I encourage other women to claim their experiences and to think about sharing them. Female sexuality is often interpreted by men. This is a chance to take back your power in sharing certain aspects. We can never do this enough. This normalizes things.”

Adolescence is not easy and it takes the examples of others, and people to confide in, so women can learn and grow. “These confidences influence us and stay with us. We carry a bit of the universe within,” O'Reilly says.

“Poetry is very therapeutic. I write for myself. If my writing resonates with others, it's even better. I have taken control of my life. If young people find inspiration and strength in that – I don't want to put any expectations on it, but if they do, I will be very happy.” 🌿

objets anodins qui entourent le poète, leurs transformations et leurs déplacements. In this meeting of physics and philosophy, the process of nature is analyzed with care, just like the insignificant objects that surround the poet, their transformations and movements.

(Éditions du Blé, poésie, 15,00 \$ papier, 58 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-39-4)

MONT BLANC – WINNIPEG EXPRESS

Scream

Un poète immigrant, explorateur des champs poétiques, découvre Winnipeg et le Manitoba, parle toujours sur la poésie en multipliant les collaborations avec d'autres artistes et en misant sur l'invention de nouvelles formes orales et écrites. An immigrant poet, explorer of poetic fields, discovers Winnipeg and Manitoba, always willing to collaborate with other artists to create new oral and written forms of expression.

(Éditions du Blé, poésie, 17,95 \$ papier, 100 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-33-2, disponible en livre numérique)

LES PAPILLONS DU QUÉBEC

Simone Hébert Allard, illustrations de Janet La France

Ce deuxième guide régionale de la collection Nature jeunesse présente aux jeunes les principales espèces de papillons que l'on retrouve au Québec. Agrémenté de photographies et d'illustrations humoristiques en pleine couleur, l'ouvrage témoigne d'une grande sensibilité envers la fragilité et l'importance des papillons. This second regional butterfly guide introduces young and old to the principal species of butterflies found in Québec. Full-colour photographs and humorous illustrations accompany the text, conveying the fragility and the importance of butterflies. (Vidacom, guide nature, 15,95 \$ papier, 64 pages, ISBN : 978-1-989282-97-7)

TI-SHADD : L'UJIMA AU QUOTIDIEN

Miriam Körner and Alix Lwanga, illustrations de Miriam Körner

Basé sur le journal de Reginald Beatty, *Ti-Shadd* raconte un récit fictive de l'histoire vraie du lien entre le Dr. Alfred Shadd – un des premiers pionniers afro-canadiens – et la communauté des Première Nations. This

fictionalized account of the true story of the connection between Dr. Alfred Shadd – one of the first African Canadian pioneers – and the First Nations community is based on the diary of Reginald Beatty.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, album jeunesse, 12,95 \$ papier, 24 pages, ISBN : 978-1-988783-62-8)

TROIS PLUMES

Richard Van Camp, illustrations de

K. Mateus, traduit par Raoul Granger

Comme punition, trois jeunes hommes doivent vivre de la terre dans une communauté qu'ils ont vandalisée. *Trois plumes*, un BD roman de la série *Debwe* (dire la vérité), explore le pouvoir et la grâce de la justice réparatrice et sa contribution à la responsabilisation des prochaines générations. The French translation of Richard Van Camp's graphic novel *Three Feathers*, *Trois plumes* explores the power and grace of restorative justice and the cultural legacy that can empower future generations. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, BD roman, 18,95 \$ papier, 48 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-48-9)

Dispatches

Insights from a literary festival director

by Charlene Diehl

Over the years, I've said to anybody who will listen that being the director of a literary festival is the best job on the planet – and even COVID chaos hasn't shaken that conviction. To spend days and months and years poring over new books, talking with writers and publishers across the country, exploring ways to connect readers and writers – it never gets old.

In my small-town childhood, I read everything I could get my hands on, but writing books seemed somewhere the other side of unlikely. When I ended up in grad school at the University of Manitoba several decades ago, my world exploded with writers and writing.

I found myself going to readings and book launches, I read work that was still in development, I even started exploring my own writing voice. Those were heady times, and for me they were transformative.

I was understanding that writing is an active practice, and it roots into the soil where it's planted. The Prairies – not just my Winnipeg community, but the whole broad sweep of our region – was alive with stories, voices, makers.

“The voice of the Prairies has become the many voices of the Prairies.”

Leading the THIN AIR festival – and now THIN AIR KIDS festival, too – I have the privilege of gathering together an annual feast of new books, new voices, new stories.

Over the past 18 years, I have been witness to the remarkable vitality of Prairie writing and publishing, but also what I think is our coming of age. Our psyche is maturing, moving from being informed by intense stories of survival, grit, and pride of place to a wild array of books, from realistic to magical, gentle to enraged, predictable to shocking.

The voice of the Prairies has become the many voices of the Prairies. Our stories of arrival are now more likely to be connected to newcomers than to pioneers, and our stories of origin finally reach back to Indigenous communities that far preceded the early traders. We are becoming the home of free-range books, tracking through other times and places, both real and imaginary. We are rooted, but we are not restricted.

This is a time of reckoning in this country – and in all the countries of the world that have evolved under colonial structure. One of the most important ways to take stock of what we know and believe is to really listen to our own stories, and one of the best ways to reorient our thinking

and move toward deeper insight and truer vision is to really listen to the stories of others.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a brilliant Nigerian writer, has framed a challenge we face on our beloved Prairies. “Many stories matter,” she writes. “Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity.”

Many of the writers rooted in this place are using their stories to empower, humanize, and repair broken dignity. Finding and creating resonating spaces for those stories sits at the core of what I do as a curator and presenter. Now it's up to all of us to make time and space to encounter and treasure those stories. 🌿

Charlene Diehl has been at the helm of

the Winnipeg International Writers Festival since 2003.

To find out more about their many featured events, writers, and books, visit thinairwinnipeg.ca.



Charlene Diehl

“Our stories of arrival are now more likely to be connected to newcomers than to pioneers, and our stories of origin finally reach back to Indigenous communities that far preceded the early traders.”

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Now retired from the Quebec Library Association, **MARGARET GOLDIK** still works occasionally as an editor but finally has time to finish working on some ghost stories.

IAN GOODWILLIE is a freelance writer based out of Saskatoon. He writes regularly for *Comic Book Resources*, *The Sportster*, and *ScreenRant*, in addition to *Prairie books NOW*.

ARIEL GORDON'S latest book is the public poetry project *TreeTalk* (At Bay Press, 2020).

BEV SANDELL GREENBERG is a Winnipeg writer and editor.

LIZ KATYNSKI is a Winnipeg writer.

LIZ KATYNSKI est une écrivaine de Winnipeg.

PAULA E. KIRMAN is a writer, editor, photographer, and filmmaker. She lives in Edmonton where she edits community publications and is a singer/songwriter. She is also a community organizer and has been known to drink too much coffee. Her website is www.wordspicturesmusic.com.

STEVE LOCKE is a writer living in Winnipeg, in Treaty 1 Territory. His poetry has recently appeared in *Prairie Fire* and *reverie review*.

LAURA MCKAY (she/her/hers) is a speculative fiction writer who creates worlds that might make you think a bit differently about this one. Her current work-in-progress brings fast-paced, thought-provoking mystery and magic to the streets of Winnipeg. Laura is also managing editor at Portage & Main Press, and she freelances on a variety of writing and editing projects.

KYLA NEUFELD is a poet, writer, and editor who lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Treaty 1 Territory.

LUIS REIS is 30-year veteran with Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre. Some of his directing credits include *An Enemy of the People* (Arthur Miller), *And Then There Were None* (Agatha Christie), and *Tempest-Tost* (Robertson Davies).

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BOOKENDS

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

On the Cover: *She Who Stands Tall*, artwork by Christi Belcourt.

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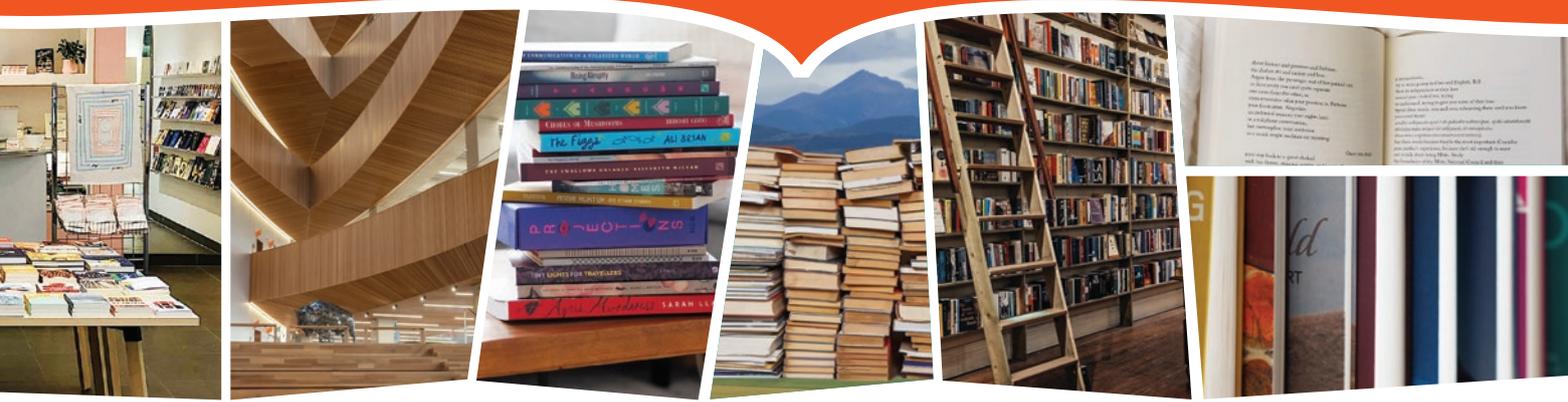
CELEBRATING STORIES THAT HIT HOME



Discover reading lists, author interviews,
publisher profiles, and more.

READ LOCAL. READ *alberta*.ca

A new website celebrating Alberta's book community
and the people who tell Alberta's story.



“The Alberta book community has allowed my voice to not only
be spoken in print but to be heard and has given me a sense of home.”

—**Norma Dunning**, BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND WINNER OF THE DANUTA GLEED AWARD
FOR *Annie Muktuk and Other Stories* (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRESS)



READ Alberta



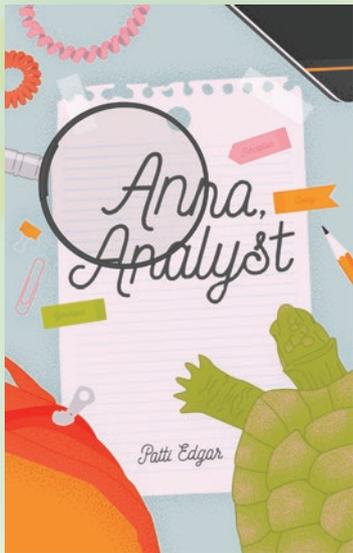
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TELLING ALBERTA'S STORY

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NEW BOOKS BY PRAIRIE AUTHORS



Anna, Analyst

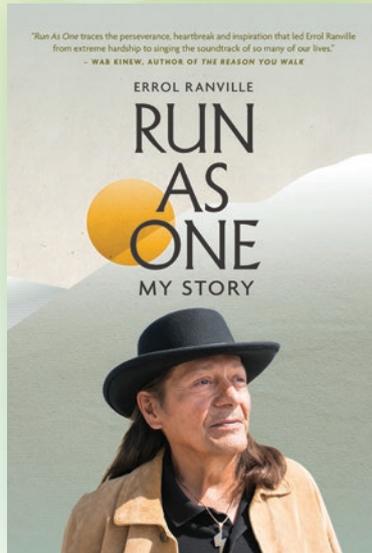
A Novel

Patti Edgar

On the last day of elementary school, eleven-year-old Anna finds a leather-bound book about handwriting analysis. Anna could use help deciphering people. Her best friend has started wearing mascara and her parents threaten to give away her tortoises just because she's a little forgetful about taking care of the sick one. But a mysterious note forces Anna to make a choice between her graphology obsession and the people — and tortoises — she cares about the most.

"A droll, deftly executed debut."

— Kirkus Reviews



Run as One

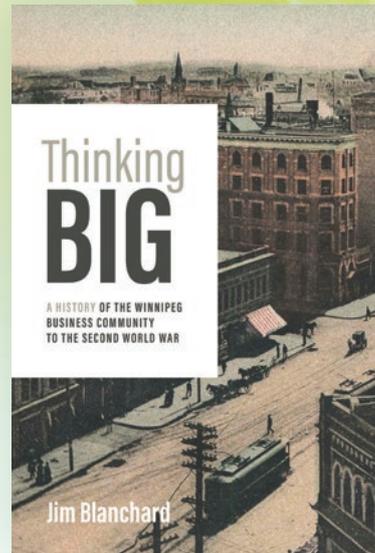
My Story

Errol Ranville

Though Errol Ranville has faced seemingly insurmountable barriers as an Indigenous performer in a predominately white music business, his band C-Weed & the Weeds released several #1 songs and went on to score JUNO nominations. In his memoir, Errol embraces the role of trailblazer for the countless musicians that follow his path.

"This is the story of how C-Weed became a legendary name in Indigenous music."

— Wab Kinew, author of
The Reason You Walk



Thinking Big

A History of the Winnipeg Business Community to the Second World War

Jim Blanchard

From pre-contact Indigenous trading through 1939, *Thinking Big* examines the history of businesses, business leaders, and organizations in Winnipeg. Discover how the Winnipeg business community dealt with challenges such as the Great Depression and the post-World War I depression, and organized itself to take advantage of periods of growth and prosperity.

"Jim Blanchard has produced yet another great read about the history of Manitoba"

— Sandy Riley, Canadian lawyer and business leader



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