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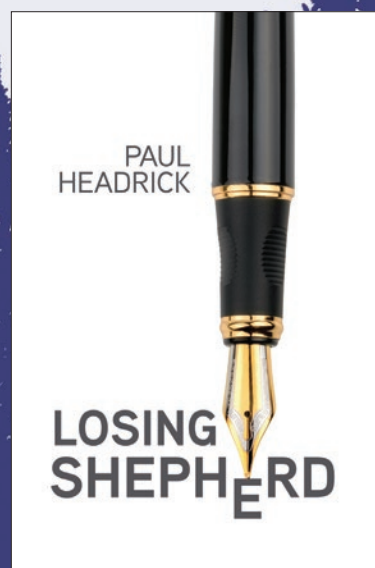
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The Best of  
the Bonnet

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# Novel shaped according to ‘sporadic nature’ of memories is a tale of resilience

*Lisa Bird-Wilson turns back to fiction following award-winning poetry collection*

by Margaret Goldik

## PROBABLY RUBY

**Lisa Bird-Wilson**

Doubleday Canada-Penguin Random House

\$29.95 hc, 288 pages

ISBN: 978-0-385-69668-5

**L**isa Bird-Wilson’s short fiction collection, *Just Pretending*, won four Saskatchewan Book Awards. Bird-Wilson, a Saskatchewan Métis and nêhiyaw writer, explains how her new novel, *Probably Ruby*, came about.

“After I finished my poetry collection (*The Red Files*) in 2016, I wanted to get back to fiction. I noticed I was writing the same story over and over. It turned out to be Ruby’s story. Once I clicked on the character, on the things that make Ruby Ruby, it all made sense.”

Ruby’s life has an unpromising beginning. Her white teenage mother, Grace, is forced into giving her up for adoption. Ruby’s father is Indigenous, and the agency overseeing adoptions first places Ruby in a foster home where she is neglected, and then places her with a less-than-stellar white couple. Throughout the novel, none of the social structures serve Ruby well.

“We exist in a colonial country. Institutions, systems, social structures, authority figures, and so on are all embedded in/products of colonization – that’s the foundation. By that measure, Indigenous people continue to exist despite the system rather than because of it,” Bird-Wilson says.

Ruby’s feistiness, her magnificent “royal, attention-getting” laugh, her prodigious appetite for drugs, liquor, sex, and family, make her larger than life. She grows up

self-destructive with a pattern of bad relationships and an instinct to bolt from intimacy. But Ruby is not a victim: despite all odds, she is in control of her life.

“I never once saw Ruby as a victim. Ruby is a survivor. I see Ruby as strong and resilient and able to pull it off, no matter how difficult things get. She’s vulnerable, but she has such a drive to survive and thrive,” Bird-Wilson remarks.

Ruby imagines a life in which her birth mother has given her a twin sister who shares her feelings. She can’t know that Grace wanted to keep both Ruby and her sister, who was also born out of wedlock.

The connection between Grace and Ruby is fragile. Bird-Wilson explains, “I don’t know that Ruby could see it/would let herself see it (that connection to Grace, Grace’s connection to Ruby), but it’s enough for me to know it was there, for the reader to know it was there. It’s one of Ruby’s blind spots. She can feel something, a connection, which she thinks of as a mysterious twin – I think what she feels is her connection to Grace and to her unknown sister.”

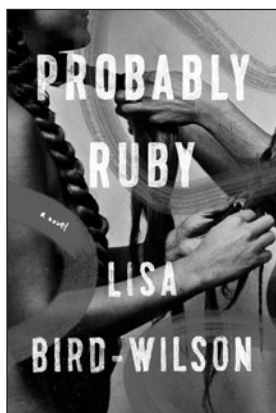
*Probably Ruby* is assembled in non-sequential chapters, each titled after a person in Ruby’s story. “Part of what I was going for,” says Bird-Wilson, “was a semblance of someone’s lived life and their memories, how memory works, how a person’s narrative gets built and continuously adjusted. The effect is the sporadic nature of what’s remembered or told, what becomes part of a person’s narrative, and what gets left out.”

For Bird-Wilson, the biggest question is what happened to Ruby’s birth mother. “Ruby just doesn’t know,” she says. “I had to resist too-neat conclusions – that’s just not Ruby’s life. She doesn’t have all the answers and she never will.

“Also, I very much imagine Ruby off-page, just carrying on.” 🌿



Lisa Bird-Wilson



# Plett's old protagonists return, explore elusive meaning of being 'grown up'

*Short story collection approaches complexity with compassion*

by melanie brannagan frederiksen

## A DREAM OF A WOMAN

Casey Plett

Arsenal Pulp Press

\$21.95 pb, 280 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55152-856-4

Originally from Manitoba, Casey Plett currently lives in Windsor, Ontario. Her latest collection of short stories, *A Dream of a Woman*, follows a number of trans women as they navigate the space between the lives they lead and the lives they wish they had.

"Every protagonist in *A Dream of a Woman* gets to a point where she's in her 30s with a lot of post-transition years under her belt, and each one understands that she is a boring old female walking around being a boring old lady. And the concept of growing older, of being a woman in the sense that the word connotes some sense of grown-upness – that remains slippery and elusive," says Plett.

This collection follows her first book of short stories, *A Safe Girl to Love*, and her novel, *Little Fish*.

"I think I see *A Dream of a Woman* as the third part of a particular fiction project," Plett says.

A few characters from her first story collection – "trans women in their 20s who had just transitioned and were basically losing it" – return

in these pages along with new characters, now "trans women in their 30s, many of whom are dealing with different things than the girls in *A Safe Girl to Love* and, well," she admits, "are sometimes dealing with the same things. Growth in spite of recursiveness interests me."

Her interest in growth through and in spite of recursiveness is reflected in the structure of the collection, which includes three sets of linked stories arranged in a kind of mirror sequence, anchored by a novella. Plett says that, now that she's finished it, she thinks of the collection as a palindrome.

Plett approaches the complexities of her protagonists' experiences of themselves and their communities clearly and with great compassion. Vera, the protagonist of the five "Obsolution" stories, finds herself surprised by how growing up post-transition has meant

becoming more (emotionally and spiritually) like the teenage boy she used to be.

"There's an ache in that," says Plett, "something peaceful but also sad – melancholy. There were odd parts of you that you ended up wanting to keep, but the only way to get there was to first try throwing it all away."

With the title of the collection, *A Dream of a Woman*, Plett intends the phrasing as both "collapsing the false boundaries of transness and womanhood" and revealing something darker about the lives of



these protagonists; for all that they are women, she says, "there is a part of them that continues to 'want to be a woman.'" To illustrate this, she quotes the end of Andrea Long Chu's essay "On Liking Women," where Chu speaks of transness as "not identity but desire."

Plett says, "This kind of thing is extremely difficult to discuss – there is virtually no way to do so in public in a way one can trust. This might be the first time I am doing so outside of a fictional setting. For the protagonists in the book – Hazel, Vera, Nicole, Tiana, Gemma, and the narrator of 'Floodway' – they rarely discuss this fundamental paradox of wanting and being, but they experience it intensely, their individual dreams of women." 🌿



Casey Plett

JOANNA ELDREDGE MORRISSEY



# Maples Mystery series returns with a cozy, cat-filled house and a dead body

*Epigraphs playing on word 'clutter' a special addition to A Clutter of Cats*

by Shirley Byers

## A CLUTTER OF CATS

### A Maples Mystery

Louise Carson

Signature Editions

\$16.95 pb, 228 pages

ISBN: 978-1-773240-92-3

**A** *Clutter of Cats* is the latest title in Louise Carson's cozy Maples Mystery series, featuring Gerry Conebear, writer, artist, and interested neighbour who shares her big old house with no fewer than 20 cats. (She inherited the house and most of the cats from her aunt.)

It's the month of May and Gerry is on holidays – gardening, investigating family history, and renovating the house – but the goings-on next door are not so pleasant. Gerry's concerned about the actions of Shadow, the neighbours' black Lab – he's rather anti-cat – and even more concerned about the actions of Shadow's owner, Roald, who is, to all appearances, rude, loud, and controlling.

Edwina Murray, Roald's wife, on the other hand, is delightful, if just a bit eccentric. Or perhaps she just has a lot on her mind. She's a bestselling mystery author trying to finish her latest book and figure out how she might extricate herself from an unhappy marriage without turning over half her wealth to her no-good, cheating husband.

And then Roald goes missing. And then he turns up dead. And not just dead, but murdered.

Carson, who lives just outside of Montreal, has fun writing this series of cozy mysteries, and a special part of the joy of *A Clutter of Cats* was deciding on the epigraphs to each chapter, each based on a meaning of the word *clutter*.

"I love etymology," she says. "I spent a happy hour with the *Oxford English Dictionary* at my local library. The dictionary always includes usages of words through history, and I had the idea to head my chapters with some of them. The cat mysteries are my chance to enjoy myself, so I indulged in fitting an appropriate quote to each chapter."

Writers talk about "planners," who outline thoroughly, and "pantsers," who go where the writing takes them, metaphorically flying by the seat of their pants.

Carson says she is a bit of both. "I usually have the germ of an idea as to who gets murdered but sometimes change who the murderer is partway through writing the book. I am more likely to outline the middle and end



Louise Carson

sections of books as my way becomes clearer. The one thing I have firmly in my mind from the beginning is the location – it has to speak to me and is usually somewhere I know well."

Lovering, the fictional town based on Carson's hometown of Hudson, Quebec, is a place she knows well. And having long admired the Greenwood Centre for Living History in Hudson, known locally as Greenwood House, Carson had a model for The Maples, and settled Gerry right in. After writing a dark stand-alone mystery called *Executor*, set partly in China, Carson decided to move somewhere more enjoyable.

"I found [writing *Executor*] so draining that after that I decided I needed more fun in my writing life, so I fantasized:

what would I love to be and/or have? I would like to be young, short, cute, and inherit some money and a big old house down by the water in the village where I grew up.

"So the artist Gerry and her 20 cats came into being." 🐾



# Two timelines blend together in novel written as sequel to another writer's 1941 tale

*Readers looking for a good story won't need to be familiar with the original, Gowan promises*

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

## THE BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Lee Gowan

Thistledown Press

\$24.95 pb, 352 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77187-208-9

**T**he best thing about writing is the process itself," says author Lee Gowan about his fourth novel, *The Beautiful Place*. It's a contemporary story about a man who loses his job, wife, and home, and then tries to rescue his grandfather's frozen body from a high-security cryonics facility – the titular Beautiful Place, named after the place where ancient Egyptian pharaohs were prepared for the afterlife.



Lee Gowan

This particular writing process took 11 years, and Gowan drew inspiration from several sources, especially Sinclair Ross's 1941 novel *As For Me and My House*.

"I grew up on a farm near Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and the fictional town Sinclair wrote about in his novel," says Gowan. "This book was important to me as a young writer because it demonstrated that you could write a great novel about the place where I was born."

When, in 2009, his boss Ed Carson at the University of Toronto suggested he write a sequel to Sinclair's novel, Gowan took up the challenge.

"The idea intrigued me and I went back to read [Sinclair's] book again and again," says Gowan. He also read Keith Fraser's memoir about Ross. "At that point, my novel began to take on shape and form."

Gowan's novel follows the grandson of Ross's character Philip Bentley. As Gowan explains, "Philip Bentley, one of the main characters in *As For Me and My House*, is a minister who doesn't believe in God.

In *The Beautiful Place*, the Bentley character also struggles with the hypocrisy of his chosen path; he's a cryonics salesman who doesn't believe in cryonics." Both characters share artistic leanings – the grandfather toward painting, the grandson toward writing.

Other devices reminiscent of Ross's book provide rewards for readers of both novels. One similarity is the journal format. In Gowan's novel, however, the narrative hopscotches between 1986 Vancouver and 2012 Toronto. "The alternating timelines reflect Bentley's struggle to come to terms with his past in order to find his beautiful place," says Gowan.

This technique proved challenging. "It's tricky working with two different timelines in a novel, but it's something

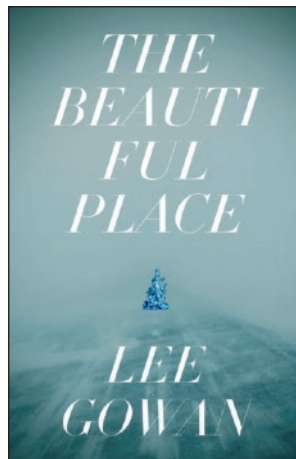
I'm drawn to and have done before," he says. "It made the revision process a bit like putting together the pieces of a puzzle, as I searched for places where I could weave from present to past and back again without, hopefully, distracting the reader too much. The hardest part was finding the right place to start."

Gowan also strayed from the strict realism of Ross, introducing the element of cryonics, a concept to which Gowan's son had introduced

him. "Writing a sci-fi *As For Me and My House* appealed to me because I like mixing genres and straining the conventions of genre."

Readers of this novel do not have to be familiar with *As For Me and My House* to appreciate it, however.

"*The Beautiful Place* should have a particular resonance for Canadians, but I think it might also appeal to readers from anywhere in the world," says Gowan, "as long as they like a good story. Most of all, I hope they can see themselves in my characters." 🌿





# Mennonites do have a sense of humour, and Andrew Unger's collection proves it

The Best of the Bonnet *draws from thousands of satirical articles*

by Luis Reis

## THE BEST OF THE BONNET

**Andrew Unger**

Turnstone Press

\$21.95 pb, 200 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-739-0

In the follow-up to his award-winning debut novel, *Once Removed*, Steinbach-based author Andrew Unger returns to familiar territory with *The Best of the Bonnet*, a selection of articles from *The Daily Bonnet*, the website where he has posted approximately 2,300 satirical news articles over the last five years.

Unger found it a challenge deciding which stories to include. He selected popular articles, ones that he personally really liked, and decided against ones that might have been popular when first written, but didn't make much sense years later.

"A lot of humour is based on context, so sometimes there are jokes, especially if they are referring to current news events, which only work for a week or two," he says. The editors at Turnstone Press also brought their perspectives to the selection process.

"I think, in the end, we have a great collection that people will really enjoy."

Unger and his editors also spent some time determining groupings, and looking at the order of articles within a particular section, so that the flow was right. "I think it's kind of like how a musician might think about the flow of an album," he says. "There's an order and pacing and even juxtaposition of ideas that has to be right."

The author's satirical writing style suggests that "Mennonites do, indeed, have a sense of humour." According to Unger, "Mennonites are diverse, of course, but some groups of Mennonites used to frown on humour. They were so pious that any form of lightheartedness

was considered a sin. You couldn't even laugh. Life was serious, after all. Even writing fiction was considered sinful. Just three generations back, my father's family was like that.

"Things have changed, but I think some people still have the impression that Mennonites don't really laugh, and I hope *The Daily Bonnet* helps to change that perception."

Unger maintains that this collection is honouring Mennonite quirks as much as criticizing them.

"I use the medium of satire to point out flaws in my community, my religious background, and myself, but I think that *The Daily Bonnet* is also a celebration of Mennonite traditions. Many people could look at their own backgrounds, the way they were raised and so on, and find things to dislike and other things to admire. I think it's important to bring both elements to light," he says.

"Life is full of complexity and nuance, and I've tried to

approach the Mennonite world with this in mind."

Many of Unger's articles explore the importance of identity and community. "I think questions about identity and community are not always easy to answer, but are essential nonetheless. Even if we can't answer them clearly and concisely and even if the answers are complex, they're still worth asking," he says.

"Essentially these questions are 'Who am I?' and 'How do I fit into this world?' and, as strange as it may sound, I think that satire can help us answer these questions. By critiquing certain aspects of my own background, I am saying, 'This is part of me,' and sometimes 'I wish it wasn't like this.'" 🌿



Andrew Unger



# Trouble ‘haunts everyday lives’ in Umezurike’s new short fiction collection

*Stories take on themes of human suffering while being laced with humour*

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

## DOUBLE WAHALA, DOUBLE TROUBLE

Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

Griots Lounge

\$22.99 pb, 210 pages

ISBN: 978-1-7776884-0-0

*Double Wahala, Double Trouble*, Nigerian author Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike’s new short fiction collection of 11 urgent and thought-provoking tales set in his homeland, is being published by Griots Lounge, a relatively new press based in Winnipeg.

Umezurike is an assistant professor of English, a Vanier scholar, and a PhD candidate at the University of Alberta where he has also won several creative writing awards. He has previously published award-winning poetry, short stories, and a children’s novel in Nigeria.

*Double wahala* means “double trouble” in Nigerian Pidgin. The title is appropriate because of the great deal of trouble in which his characters invariably find themselves. As Umezurike says, “Throughout the collection, I wanted to show the ways that *wahala* (trouble) persists and haunts our everyday life.”



Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

Umezurike regards love and its manifestations as the central theme of the collection. “My book touches upon love or how it is defined, expressed, or even perverted – love for the family, the flesh, or land or money. Love in innocuous and insidious ways,” he says.

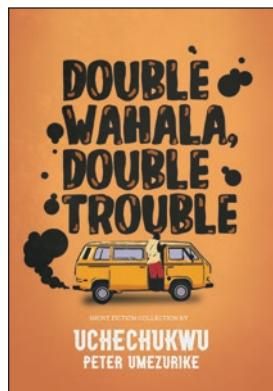
“Accordingly, the stories reflect similar themes of infidelity, betrayal, mental health, violence, greed, and destitution.”

In “Flesh of My Flesh,” a woman takes revenge on her lover’s unfaithfulness, but also asserts her own loyalty, in a gruesome way. In “Bat,” a man tries to teach his

teenage son a lesson about masculinity through violence. The story “Neighbours” tells of an artist who is hired to paint a portrait of his male neighbour, only to receive an unusual request from the man’s wife.

What interests Umezurike about the characters in his collection is their insistence on living, despite all odds. He hopes readers will recognize how messy yet interesting people’s entanglements with each other are.

Several stories allude to the influence of the oil industry. The longest piece, told in the chilling voice of a teenage boy, conveys grim details that lurk in his mind about the far-reaching impact of fires involving “black gold.”



This serious aspect of the collection struck Umezurike as the most challenging. The dilemma was how to lace the stories with humour so they wouldn’t come off as too pessimistic in tone, while still making the collection pulsate in a visceral way. “Because I was writing about some facets of human suffering, I didn’t want the stories to verge too much on bleakness,” he says.

While he believes that anyone who likes a good story should enjoy reading the stories in his collection, they may particularly resonate with a certain audience. According to Umezurike, the population of continental Africans living in Canada is growing.

In fact, his conversations with diasporic Africans here in Canada indicate that some long for narratives about home, stories reconnecting them to their countries of origin. There are plans to have the collection published in Nigeria as well.

Wherever readers live, they will find themselves immersed in the lives of these characters on the edge.

“I’ve always been drawn to experiences of marginality and precarity,” Umezurike says, “so I wanted to capture stories dealing with such issues.”



## MORE FICTION

### SHORT FICTION

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#### **ALTERNATE PLAINS: STORIES OF PRAIRIE SPECULATIVE FICTION**

Edited by Darren Ridgley  
and Adam Petrash

Editors Ridgley and Petrash follow up their anthology of Manitoba speculative fiction with this one reaching across the Canadian Prairies, including new work by writers such as Premee Mohamed, David Demchuk, S. M. Beiko, Chadwick Ginther, and Linda Trinh. (Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains, \$21.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-064-4)

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#### **AVENUE OF CHAMPIONS**

Conor Kerr

Based on Papaschase and Métis oral histories and personal experience, and set in Alberta, these interlinked stories examine the inherent connection of Indigenous Peoples to the land as it is seen in the relationship of Indigenous youth with urban constructs and colonial spaces. Kerr explores issues such as lateral violence, intergenerational trauma, and language revitalization. (Nightwood Editions, \$21.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-418-2, available as ebook)

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#### **EXIT STRATEGIES**

Meg Todd

The characters in these stories, girls and women of various ages and circumstances, need a way out – from complicated family relationships, daily routines, and prescribed roles and expectations – from realities that shift and settle. (Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-94-7)

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#### **GREAT ADVENTURES FOR THE FAINT OF HEART**

Cary Fagan

These 10 delightful and hopeful stories introduce characters finding family where they least expect it – a young girl adopts her stepfather before her mother decides to take a chance on him; a man takes his girlfriend's introverted and anxious son on a road trip. This warm collection shows the possibility – and unpredictability – of change for the good. (Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988298-90-0)

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#### **IN SINGING, HE COMPOSED A SONG**

Jeremy Stewart

Raw and challenging, this experimental novella follows John, a teenage musician in a northern industrial town, experiencing depression and ennui in an environment of heavy metal and poverty. An incident at school leads to a stay in the psychiatric ward, where he sifts through the layers of his life and rearranges them into a kind of music. (University of Calgary Press, \$19.99 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-220-1, available as ebook)

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#### **ONLY IF WE'RE CAUGHT**

Theresa Slind

This debut story collection includes such characters as a sad elderly lover, a high-powered lawyer, a too-young pregnant woman, a robotic humanoid, a haunted mortician, and a vampire, as it explores betrayal, disappointment, grief, and longing with sly humour and tenderness. (ThistleDown Press, \$24.95 pb, 132 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-211-9)

### CRIME FICTION/ MYSTERY NOVELS

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#### **BEACH BLONDE**

John Lawrence Reynolds

This gritty noir novel follows Arden who, fresh out of prison, lands a job at a beachfront restaurant working for his former cellmate, Slip. Life is looking okay, until Slip is murdered before his eyes, his parole is in jeopardy, and the homicide detective on the case expects help in the investigation. To complicate things further, Josie Marshall, from Reynolds's previous novel, *Beach Strip*, joins forces with Arden. (At Bay Press, \$29.95 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-54-8)

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#### **DENIAL**

Beverley McLachlin

In this follow-up to *Full Disclosure*, Jilly Truitt is one of the top criminal defence lawyers in the city, and she can pick and choose her cases. So why does she choose to defend Vera Quentin, who is accused of killing her mother in an act of mercy, and who is unreasonably sticking to her claim

of innocence, despite the evidence stacked against her? (Simon & Schuster, \$24.99 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9821-0499-3, available as ebook and audio book)

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#### **AN IMAGE IN THE LAKE, A JOANNE KILBOURN MYSTERY**

Gail Bowen

The 20th book in the series continues to delve into the family and work lives of the Kilbourn-Shreves. While awaiting the birth of another grandchild and the debut of *Sisters and Strangers*, the six-part television series about her early life, Joanne has to deal with threats to her daughter Taylor's relationship with the star of the series.

(ECW Press, \$34.95 hc, 450 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-613-0, available as ebook)

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#### **MANISTIQUE, A LUKE FISCHER NOVEL**

Craig Terlson

Luke Fischer is not a private detective, but try telling that to Sam, the Schoolcraft County sheriff. In his latest investigation, Luke teams up with Sam to follow the money that EJ skimmed off of his dealings with a criminal organization and left in bags with friends before he was found at the bottom of a river. How many people need to get shot before they figure out who arranged to take EJ fishing? (Ethelbert House, \$16.50 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 979-8745499685)

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#### **TENURE**

Kieran Egan

This entertaining blend of crime thriller and campus comedy sees Mark Morata, wealthy importer-exporter of illicit recreational substances, obliged to reward Geoff Pybus for saving his life. But helping Geoff's wife get tenure at her university proves more difficult, shows an environment more corrupt and vicious, than anything he ever encountered in the drug business. (NeWest Press, \$21.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-030-6, available as ebook)

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#### **THE TRUTH YOU'RE TOLD**

Michael J. Clark

Sam Hutchings has lost her job at the paper, so she's retreated to her family cabin

for the summer, where her teen daughter joins her, and where she hopes to work on a novel. Old family stories about her father, what he did, and how he died are brought into question, and whoever is protecting the secrets thinks they are worth killing for.

(ECW Press, \$19.95 pb, 364 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-404-4, available as ebook)

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**WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MARY JANE?  
AN EPITOME APARTMENTS MYSTERY**

Candas Jane Dorsey

Still recovering from her experiences recounted in *The Adventures of Isabel*, the unnamed postmodern amateur sleuth-narrator is reunited with an old university friend, Priscilla Jane Gill, who is now rich and famous and being stalked. When the stalker is murdered, someone Pris trusts has to look into it.

(ECW Press, \$19.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-556-0, available as ebook)

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**OTHER NOVELS**

**ALL IS WELL**

Katherine Walker

This wickedly funny novel follows Christine Wright, an ex-special forces soldier and recovering alcoholic taking on her new career as an Anglican minister, as she deals with a bit more than she can handle, including an angry widow, a suspicious parishioner, and a terminally ill military-cop-turned-stalker.

(ThistleDown Press, \$24.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-215-7)

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**ATACAMA**

Carmen Rodriguez

Set in Chile and Spain in the first half of the 20th century, this novel tells the story of Manuel Garay, the son of worker organizers, and Lucía Céspedes, the daughter of a fascist army officer, who befriend each other as 12-year-olds, and whose lives remain linked by the actions of Lucía's father, their commitment to social justice, and their belief in the power of writing and art.

(Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$22.00 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-477-7, available as ebook)

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**AUGUST INTO WINTER**

Guy Vanderhaeghe

Vanderhaeghe is back with a new historical novel, his first in 10 years, and it is worth the wait. Set at the beginning of the Second World War, the story opens with a casual and violent murder and what could be considered an abduction, if the girl wasn't so willing to go along. A wild ride ensues as Corporal Cooper and two brothers, Jack and Dill, track down Ernie Sickert.

(McClelland & Stewart-Penguin Random House, \$34.95 hc, 480 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-7055-6, available as ebook and audio book)

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**THE CINE STAR SALON**

Leah Ranada

Sophia is living the life she wants – she is engaged to a kind Canadian man, and she has her own modest hair salon – even if her parents think she could do better. So when her friend and mentor Auntie Rosy in Manila is about to lose the Cine Star Salon – where Sofia found her calling as a young girl – Sofia wants to help but is reluctant to reopen old wounds.

(NeWest Press, \$21.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-032-0, available as ebook)

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**DESPITE THE DEVIL**

Shawna James

Stephanie and Andrew meet when they're teaching at the same high school, and the attraction is mutual and immediate. But he has a past that threatens their future, and Roberta is just part of it.

(Drummond Martin Publishing, \$21.95 pb, 204 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7772578-0-4, available as ebook and audio book)

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**DUMB-SHOW**

Fawn Parker

This satirical campus novel confronts the cultural politics of masculinity through a story that twists the structure of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, with the rise and fall of a university professor, and the two siblings involved with him.

(ARP Books, \$21.00 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-56-4, available as ebook)

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**THE ERRANT HUSBAND**

Elizabeth Haynes

Alternating settings between Cuba in 2005 and Calgary a year earlier, the novel follows Thelma, who is losing her husband,

first to Rosa and romantic ideas of Cuba in his writing group, and then more literally in Cuba, to his research, if that is indeed what he is doing when she flies there to join him, only to find him checked out of the hotel.

(Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989274-58-3)

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**EVERYTHING AFFECTS EVERYONE**

Shawna Lemay

In this novel about listening, the power of art, and how women speak to each other, the reader meets Xaviere, who is given the job of transcribing a series of taped interviews her deceased friend Daphne conducted with Irene Guernsey, an elusive photographer of mysterious and magical images, who had never given interviews before.

(Palimpsest Press, \$18.95 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989287-84-2)

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**FIGHT NIGHT**

Miriam Toews

Nine-year-old Swiv tells it like it is when writing to her absent father about her life. Expelled from school, Swiv spends her days with her wild and wacky grandmother while her mother, pregnant and exhausted, barely makes it through rehearsals and medical appointments. Love overflows in this latest warm and wise novel by the incomparable Miriam Toews.

(Knopf-Penguin Random House, \$29.95 hc, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-8239-1, available as ebook and audio book)

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**HAPPY SANDS**

Barb Howard

In this sharply funny novel, Ginny is on her usual week-long summer vacation at a beach resort with her family – her husband who's showing signs of depression; her distant teenage son; and eight-year-old Ruby, who'd rather spend time with the other beach families. To distract herself, and to earn enough money for the wine she'll need to keep pretending she's having fun, Ginny offers her massage services, getting an insider's view of the neighbours' lives.

(University of Calgary Press, \$24.99 pb, 138 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-216-4, available as ebook)



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**ICE FIELDS, LANDMARK EDITION****Thomas Wharton**

In 1898, Dr. Edward Byrne slides into a crevasse in a glacier in the Rockies. As he fights to remain conscious, he sees something in the ice that links him with the ancient glacier and sets him on a quest to uncover the mystery of the icefield. This new edition of a Canadian classic includes an author interview with Smaro Kamboureli and an afterword by Suzette Mayr.  
(NeWest Press, \$23.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-036-1)

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**LOSING SHEPHERD****Paul Headrick**

In an act of arrogance and poor judgment, Canadian literary star Gordon Bridge published a highly critical review of his oldest and dearest friend's new novel, only to realize afterward that he has attacked a masterpiece – and destroyed a friendship. The fallout affects every area of his life, and writing about his past is his only way forward.  
(Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-96-1)

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**OUT OF MIND****David Bergen**

Lucille Black, first introduced to readers in *The Matter with Morris*, is at loose ends, travelling first to Thailand, to try to convince her daughter to leave the charismatic Shane and his "group," and then to the south of France for the wedding of a former love. Bergen's characteristic precision and insight bring Lucille to life in all her complexity and vulnerability.  
(Goose Lane Editions, \$22.95 pb, 196 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-216-0)

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**THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN DANCE TOUR****Dawn Dumont**

It's 1972, and when the members of the Prairie Chicken dance troupe all come down with the flu, John Greyeyes is enlisted to lead a new set of "performers" – a middle-aged women with advanced arthritis, her 19-year-old niece, who'd rather flirt than dance, and Lucas Pretends Eagle, a young dancer from the U.S. – as they head to Sweden, Germany, and Italy, with Nadine, the leader of the original troupe, in hot pursuit.  
(Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988298-87-0)

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**PRODIGIES****Bob Armstrong**

Three gifted teenagers take on the Wild West: Daniel, a street kid from New York with amazing hand-eye coordination becomes a sharpshooter; Lincoln, a genius with numbers and angles or "come-togethers" becomes the engineer behind a steam-powered wagon like no other; and Lily, a circus performer who can communicate with dogs enlists their aid for more than her act. The prodigies find each other in Deadwood, on the wrong side of a fanatical wolfer and a powerful mining baron.  
(Five Star-Gale, \$25.95 hc, 372 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4328-7811-5)

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**REBELLION'S DAUGHTER****Judi Coburn**

As a young woman in Upper Canada in the 1930s, Eunice Whiting feels gender and class inequity all around her, from her abusive father to the elite-ruled government. She challenges it, developing her political understanding after dressing as a boy to participate in the rebellion and after spending time in jail, learning about the anti-slavery and prison abolition movements.  
(Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$22.00 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-485-2, available as ebook)

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**RED X****David Demchuk**

This spellbinding novel gives a history of Toronto's gay village through the stories – and the horror – of the men who go missing over decades and even centuries, and the friends they leave behind, marked and bound to each other in mysterious ways. Interwoven with their stories is the author's personal story and his exploration of the relationship between queerness and horror, as fact and fiction become indistinguishable.  
(Strange Light-Penguin Random House, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-2501-3, available as ebook and audio book)

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**SMALL RECKONINGS****Karin Melberg Schwier**

This debut historical novel tells the story of homesteader William Burke and his city bride, Louise, as they farm near

Watrous, Saskatchewan, and raise a family, which includes Violet, who is born with a disability, but who shows great courage and brings out the goodness and loyalty of her community.

(Burton House Books, \$20.00 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9948669-5-0)

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**THE SPIRITS UP****Todd Babiak**

Benedict is an inventor who has just sold a clean energy design, making his family extremely wealthy. However, his family has problems he hasn't noticed, the design doesn't work, and he can't concentrate on how to make it work because his house is haunted. This contemporary ghost story is an exploration of a timeless question: What happens when there's nothing to believe? (McClelland & Stewart-Penguin Random House, \$22.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-9624-2, available as ebook and audio book)

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**THE STRANGERS****Katherena Vermette**

The Strangers are Phoenix, who while incarcerated gives birth to a baby she'll never see; her younger sister, Cedar, who is finally out of the foster care system and living with her dad and his new family; Elsie, their mother, who is struggling with her addictions; and Margaret, Elsie's distant mother. The women's lives diverge and reconnect, as they strive to emerge from the darkness of their past.  
(Hamish Hamilton-Penguin Random House, \$29.95 hc, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-3961-6, available as ebook and audio book)

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**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

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**COMING TO CANADA****Starkie Mak**

In masterful brushstrokes and calligraphy, this tale of immigrant experience is told from a child's perspective, paying careful homage to popular children's books and evoking the turbulent emotions and difficulties a child experiences when their world is upended and a foreign world unfolds before them. In search of a new life in a new land, the child retreats into the realm of fantasy.  
(At Bay Press, \$21.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-56-2)

# Debut was formed through ‘natural cadence’ of creativity, spread over decades

*Collection ‘framed around bodies’ approaches themes with maturity*

by Ariel Gordon

## RUMP + FLANK

Carol Harvey Steski

NeWest Press

\$19.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77439-028-3

Available as an ebook

Carol Harvey Steski’s debut collection of poetry, *rump + flank*, was a long time in the making.

“I want people to know that this book has been in the works for a quarter of a century, so emerging writers: don’t give up!!” says the Toronto-based writer, who works in corporate communications.

“Actually, I did take a hiatus from writing poetry for about 10 years in that time as I was dealing with medical challenges, then busy after my daughter was born. I would later mine those medical traumas when I was ready to return to writing. The journey of this book has been an exercise in steady persistence, a careful balancing.”

Steski’s list of mentors tells you a lot about her life. While living in Winnipeg, Steski worked with Patrick Friesen as a part of the Creative Communications program at Red River College and through the Manitoba Writers’ Guild. After moving to Toronto, Steski attended the Humber School for Writers and worked with Karen Connelly.

As you might expect from the title, this collection is grounded in the body.

“*rump + flank* is ultimately about resiliency and survival,” Steski says. “It’s framed around bodies – bodies at different stages of life; bodies in service to others; bodies under fire; bodies that hold secrets. And what happens to them, those universal experiences: pleasure, pain, illness, trauma, boredom, judgment, betrayal, how bodies respond and carry on.”

But Steski isn’t only interested in human bodies.

“The definition of the body is broad, extending beyond humans/animals/plants to masses of matter like clouds, lakes, and chemical elements,” she notes.

While that may sound like heavy material, the fresh and visceral imagery of poems like “pitting cherries,” “mammatus clouds,” and “pumpkin farm” provide a startling dark humour.

Though this is her first book, the time it took her to compile the manuscript meant that Steski was able to approach these themes with maturity and flexibility.

“There is, I’ve come to realize, a natural cadence to my creative cycle, and writing poetry while immersed in a deep emotional or health struggle is almost impossible,” she says. “I marvel at writers who can. I need sufficient distance and time for productive brooding – my body is in ‘record mode’ during these times, so at least work is still happening at the subconscious level.”

Steski has learned to trust her body and mind.

“Using a different part of the brain than where words live is also crucial to my process,” she says. “I work full-time in corporate

communications, constantly manipulating language, so periodically allowing a *non-verbal* creative force to take over and give my verbal brain a break has been useful.”

She says her most productive period was probably while she was in the Humber School for Writers program where she enrolled in guitar lessons and tinkered with oil painting.

“And when I’m ready to write, I need space and great swaths of time alone (and music, which fuels me). So I move at my own pace, trying to manage all the things as they come.” 🌿



Carol Harvey Steski

ANIL MUNGAL





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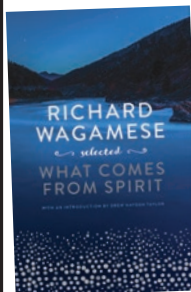
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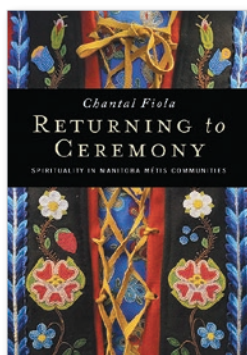
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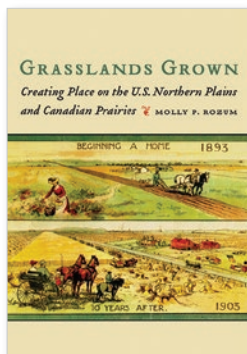
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U O F M P R E S S . C A



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## Collection reflects ‘the chaos of healing’ through grief and trauma

*Rayanne Haines followed this chaos into different forms alongside poems*

by Ariel Gordon

### TELL THE BIRDS YOUR BODY IS NOT A GUN

**Rayanne Haines**

Frontenac House

\$19.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1-989466-21-6

Available as an ebook

Putting out a collection of poetry during the coronavirus pandemic is difficult, but Rayanne Haines has become used to working through trauma in her life and in her art.

“Ninety-five percent of the book was written in one year as a way to mark a journey of trying to heal after my son’s suicide crisis,” says the Edmonton-based writer and arts administrator.

“Maybe I thought that if I took my grief and anger and anxiety and put it on the page, it would take it out of my body. And maybe the book would take it out of other people’s bodies too.”

The result is Haines’s *Tell the Birds Your Body Is Not a Gun*.

Though this is her second book of poetry and her seventh book overall, the process for this book was unique.

“With this book, my goal was to write every day to try and

understand the grief that consumed me even though my son did not die by suicide,” Haines notes.

“Yet in the writing, I opened to my own unexplored grief from abusive experiences in my childhood and first marriage, unspoken intergenerational trauma, and my personal relationship with depression and anxiety. This was unexpected and not what I had planned at all but my commitment had been to write the journey, so I did.”

As one might expect with such an arduous and new undertaking, doubts crept in along the way.

“I questioned my right to even talk about loss and death, and I think that questioning grounded the manuscript in truth,” Haines says.

The material also demanded that Haines expand her ways of writing poetry.

“The crisis that manifested the creation of this book happened slowly and then all at once from all different angles,” says Haines. “We were consumed by it and the chaos of it. I realized very quickly that the content of the book needed to reflect this chaos and, also, the chaos of healing.”



*“I realized very quickly that the content of the book needed to reflect this chaos and, also, the chaos of healing.”*

RAYANNE HAINES

This adaptation led to exploring different forms alongside more straight-ahead poems.

“Some of the pieces needed to not fit in the structure of a poem,” says Haines. “Some needed to

be fleshed out more.

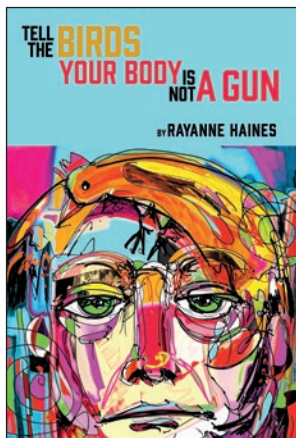
‘Form Letter A’ was a real letter I sent to my son’s school. ‘Form Letter B’ was what I wanted to say. I wasn’t willing to shift those pieces into something different. I sat with my writing and let each piece shape itself. This was the only way I could conceive of writing this journey.”

Now that *Tell the Birds Your Body*

*Is Not a Gun* has been published, Haines’s goals for the book are as modest and as ambitious as the poems themselves.

“To say I hope it reaches people who need it, is one of the answers I can give,” she says. “Also, I want it to somehow convey that our grief and trauma is real, no matter who we are or what we grieve. I hope it can open doors to conversations about mental health.

“But also, if it only works as a container to hold the trauma I don’t want to hold anymore, that’s okay too.” 🌿



# Poet hopes to help readers understand schizophrenia, treatments, and abuses

*Ideas of 'treatment' and 'cure' interrogated through perraun's work*

by Kyla Neufeld

## MIRACULOUS SICKNESS

ky perraun

At Bay Press

\$19.95 pb, 118 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988168-57-9

For ky perraun, the relationship between poetry and mental illness has been lifelong.

"I find [writing poetry] therapeutic and, I hope, it allows the reader insight into another's psyche and perhaps a sense of shared experience," she says.

Edmonton-based perraun had a diagnosis confirmed and began treatment for schizophrenia, clinical depression, and anxiety in 2001. She says that receiving her diagnosis was like having a weight lifted from her.

"Understanding my illness was a great consolation," she says. "It was not a character defect; it was a diagnosable illness."

Now, with her new collection of poetry, *Miraculous Sickness*, perraun hopes to help readers understand the nature of schizophrenia and how it has been perceived throughout history. She writes about her own personal experiences, as well as past methods of treatments and cures, which doctors often used as thinly veiled excuses to abuse patients.

For an accurate look into these practices, perraun turned to old journals and well-researched accounts, like Andrew Scull's *Madness in Civilization: A Cultural History of Insanity, from the Bible to Freud, from the Madhouse to Modern Medicine*. These texts include the stories of patients who suffered horrors at the hands of doctors and about whom perraun writes as "peers."

One of these patients, a woman whose only indication of illness was that she hated her husband, appears in "I Do Not Wish to Be Called Mrs." As part of her treatment, she was blasted with approximately 15 tons of water over 90 minutes. She was deemed cured when she agreed to go

back to her husband: "In order to save my life I go back to him. / I pretend I am glad."

With poems like these, perraun interrogates the notions of "treatment" and "cure."

"That particular poem struck a chord with all of the women I shared it with," she says. "I remember reading

the account of the woman treated, and being appalled. It was obvious that the benchmark of her 'cure' was her willingness to be an obedient and docile wife, to which end she was subjected to torturous 'treatment.'

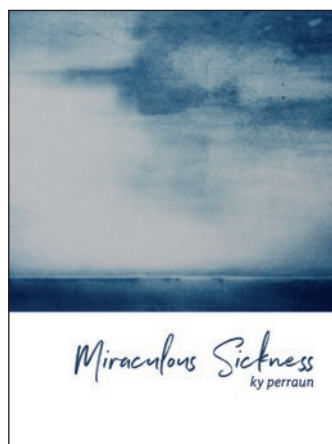
"Physicians and other healers have always wanted to find a cure for schizophrenia, of course. Throughout the ages, various treatments, some quite barbaric, were

touted as cures – everything from drilling holes in the patients' skulls to removal of organs, lobotomies, insulin shock – the list goes on. What became evident was that no true cure had been discovered, and research and experimentation continued."

She also wants to educate readers on the realities of the current mental health system.

"While modern-day treatment is humane, and the recovery model allows for strength-based treatment, there are still cases of mistreatment of patients," she says. "While I am grateful for the treatment and kindness I have received at the hands of the mental health system, there is much room for improvement."

Poetry is a constant in perraun's life, and she writes it through times of both illness and health. As she writes in "Poet Enough," she strives to be "poet / enough to give voice to those whose silence screams / to be acknowledged." 🌿



ky perraun



## MORE POETRY

### *BEARMEN DESCEND UPON GIMLI*

D. A. Lockhart

The poems in this collection tell the story of a mythic curling bonspiel showcasing the semi-supernatural team of Cree “bearmen,” set in contemporary Gimli, Manitoba, from the point of view of Raymond Northwind, an older Odawa man who is the primary icemaker and custodian for the Peter Glint Memorial Curling Club. The poems are also meditations on the role of ceremony, the place of sport in culture, and the spirit of the land and its inhabitants. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-26-1, available as ebook)

### *THE COLLECTED POETRY OF CAROL SHIELDS*

Edited by Nora Foster Stovel

This book – essential for all readers of Carol Shields – includes three previously published collections and over 80 unpublished poems, ranging from the early 1970s to Shields’s death in 2003. In the introduction and commentary, Stovel

contextualizes the poems and demonstrates how the poems illuminate Shields’s fiction, for which she is best known.

(McGill-Queen’s University Press, 320 pages, \$34.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0887-3; \$130.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0886-6; available as ebook)

### *COULD BE: NEW POEMS*

George Bowring

These new poems from Canada’s first Parliamentary Poet Laureate find a joyful wonder in the world as the poet travels – in poems such as “Signs Along the Road,” “All True Alphabet,” and “What to See” – and examines the importance of art, especially poetry, in the face of mortality. (New Star Books, \$18.00 pb, 122 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55420-178-5)

### *EARTH-COOL, AND DIRTY*

Jacob Lee Bachinger

With precise observations – of plants, birds, city streets, backyards, weather, family – and fresh images of grief, ghosts, time, loss, and the body, Bachinger’s collection explores the relationship

between nature and humans, the philosophies of Heraclitus and Thoreau, and the power of poetry.

(Radiant Press, \$20.00 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989274-61-3)

### *GARDEN PHYSIC*

Sylvia Legris

Legris’s latest collection is a garden of poems bursting with sound, wordplay, and so much joy, using botanical language to catalogue and map plants in all their glory and uses, engaging with the patterns of William Morris, imagining a “floral correspondence” between Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, and riffing off of the pharmacology of the ancient Greek Pedanius Dioscorides. (New Directions, \$23.50 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-0-8112-2990-6, available as ebook)

### *GIBBOUS MOON*

Dennis Cooley, photography  
by Michael Matthews

Waxing or waning, a gibbous moon is any moon more than half lighted but less than full. Cooley’s evocative poetry merges

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with photographer/composer Matthews's abstract photographs to illuminate the night sky, portraying how shadows and light take turns showing the way through the darkness.

(At Bay Press, \$28.95 pb, 176 pages,  
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#### **GIRL RUNNING**

Diana Hope Tegenkamp

The poems in this debut collection by a Métis poet travel through history and place, portraying solace and outrage, grief and tenderness, bewilderment and beauty, and revealing a love of the natural world and a passion for literature and art.

(ThistleDown Press, \$24.95 pb, 120 pages,  
ISBN: 978-1-77187-214-0)

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#### **I WANT TO TELL YOU LOVE, CRITICAL EDITION**

bill bissett and Milton Acorn, edited by

Eric Schmaltz and Christopher Doody

Two of Canada's most significant literary figures of the 1960s collaborated in 1965 to combine bissett's experimental beatnik work with Acorn's lyrical ruggedness to challenge the established literary tradition and call for a better world. Published for the first time, this collection of poems and illustrations is a work of friendship and a shared vision of resistance.

(University of Calgary Press, \$19.99 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-239-3, available as ebook)

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#### **I WISH I COULD BE PETER FALK**

Paul Zits

This collection interrogates restrictive masculinity with humour and candour, looking at how the commodification of gender in popular media and culture affects mental health and societal expectations to no one's benefit.

(University of Calgary Press, \$29.99 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-229-4, available as ebook)

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#### **ISKOTEW ISKWEW: POETRY OF A NORTHERN REZ GIRL**

Francine Merasty

Merasty wrote this collection when she was working as a statement taker and Counsel to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in 2017. Drawing on her memories of childhood days on the land

of northern Saskatchewan, contrasted with her time in residential schools and her current life in the city, she explores the power and resilience of women with both tenderness and outrage. Selected poems are translated into Cree.

(BookLand Press, \$17.95 pb, 112 pages,  
ISBN: 978-1-77231-145-7, available as ebook)

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#### **MARSHBURNING**

David Arnason

First published in 1980, this classic long poem connecting Arnason's Icelandic roots to the shore of Lake Winnipeg is being reissued in a magnificent new edition in the Turnstone Selects series, which highlights important works that hold both general and academic interest.

(Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 120 pages,  
ISBN: 978-0-88801-743-7)

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#### **A NATURAL HISTORY OF UNNATURAL THINGS**

Zachari Logan

These poems explore the human-made, the artifice, social constructions and rituals – subways, artwork, crime and violence, funerals – but also what is natural but just a bit out of line – a poisonous flower, a protruding tooth, a dead bat invaded by beetles – in fresh and engaging ways.

(Radiant Press, \$20.00 pb, 88 pages,  
ISBN: 978-1-989274-54-5)

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#### **OUR BODIES' UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**

Wendy Donawa

Donawa draws on her adult Caribbean life and her resettlement on her childhood's BC coast to create poems full of the casualties of colonizing desires, portraying historical, mythical, and personal characters, such as Homer's Penelope and Martin Luther King, to illuminate contemporary societal realities with authentic feeling, cultural urgency, and quirky humour.

(Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 116 pages,  
ISBN: 978-1-989466-28-5, available as ebook)

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#### **THE POETRY & LYRICS OF JAY SEMKO**

Jay Semko

The Saskatoon poet and songwriter, best known as the bassist/vocalist of The Northern Pikes, has selected poems and song lyrics exploring his experiences

with addiction, recovery, bipolar disorder, spirituality, relationships, and more.

(Wood Dragon Books, 124 pages, \$19.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-989078-63-1; \$24.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-989078-70-9; available as ebook)

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#### **THE SWEETEST DANCE ON EARTH**

Di Brandt

For the first time, the best of award-winning Brandt's poetry is being collected into one book, giving readers the chance to witness her breathtaking career from her early feminist work to her eco-poetics and see how she has always asked questions and pushed boundaries.

(Turnstone Press, \$19.00 pb, 180 pages,  
ISBN: 978-0-88801-735-2)

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#### **TEARDROPS ON THE WESER**

Amatoritsero Ede

Sectioned alphabetically, the long title poem flows like the titular river in Germany, but also reaches into the Niger River Delta of Ede's native Nigeria. The multi-faceted water imagery continues in the final parts of the book – "dedication," "requiem," and "Heartstrings" – to both lull and shock the reader.

(Griots Lounge, \$24.95 pb, 64 pages,  
ISBN: 978-1-7772756-9-3)

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#### **THINK OF HOW OLD WE COULD GET**

Tyler Engström

This collection is an existentialist tour guide led by either a clear-eyed nihilist or an unreliable narrator, leading readers to attend to the unremarkable – bagged milk, Ferrari jackets in deadbeat bars, crying men – and reflecting contemporary culture and what it means to be a real-life person.

(Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages,  
ISBN: 978-1-989466-27-8, available as ebook)

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# Plays offer prompt for artists and audiences to consider colonization and occupation

*Publication of The Only Good Indian includes five versions of play, but it's not over yet*

by Paula E. Kirman

## THE ONLY GOOD INDIAN

Written by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, Tom Arthur Davis, Adele Noronha, Jivesh Parasram, and Justine Shore  
Created by Jivesh Parasram with Tom Arthur Davis  
Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing  
\$15.95 pb, 96 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-927922-91-0



Jivesh Parasram



Tom Arthur Davis

each night (in theory), which also played a bit with the false reality of the performance, and whether the performer would in fact explode (one night only!),” says Parasram.

**W**hat would it be like to get into the headspace of a suicide bomber? The play *The Only Good Indian* gives artists the opportunity to find out. For each performance, a different artist straps themselves into a suicide vest and then tries to justify carrying out such an extreme action.

The script is part augmented lecture (blending political theory with satire), and part personal narrative, with each artist exploring their own relationships to colonization, occupation, otherness, and Indigeneity.

Five versions of *The Only Good Indian* by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, Tom Arthur Davis, Adele Noronha, Jivesh Parasram, and Justine Shore are collected in the book *The Only Good Indian*.

Co-creator Jivesh Parasram, a Vancouver-based multidisciplinary artist of Indo-Caribbean descent, says writing a piece from the point of view of a suicide bomber was complicated.

“I had no right really to speak from that perspective – and all of my research had pointed to the fact that rationales for suicide bombers were *immensely* diverse, despite the common depiction in culture and news coverage. The only thing that linked suicide bombers really was that they only tended to act in instances of occupation.”

As a result of that thinking, Parasram, and his co-creator and Pandemic Theatre co-founder Tom Arthur Davis, had two objectives: to diversify the perspective they were presenting, and to engage with the theme of occupation.

“Tom and I worked on the piece with the understanding that we would diversify it by having different performers

lecture components addressing concepts such as occupation, the word *Indian*, and objectification. From there, they created writing prompts to help each performer to mine their own heritage/experience.

“It’s always a tricky balance doing socio-politically conscious work. There’s a desire to address systems of oppression and acknowledge those that are affected by those systems. But we also don’t want to perpetuate those systems or be reductive with people’s experiences,” explains Davis, a Toronto-based theatre artist and producer.

“Satire is a dangerous rope to walk. We hope that we’re minimizing any potential violence on the audience by accepting that there are different ways of thinking about the world, which all come together to make up a whole truth, even if these truths are sometimes contradictory.”

While the book contains five versions by five writers/performers who have taken part in the project thus far, publication does not mean finished. “We’re offering the political lectures and the prompts rights-free in the hope that others might create their own events across

the country that will have more artists and audiences questioning their roles within occupation,” says Davis.

Parasram hopes readers will use their imaginations to question how they, or people they love, would fit into the narrative. “I want people to be able to, through maybe making their own version, reach through their own history and identify the ways that occupation has impacted their life. Maybe as the occupier, maybe as the occupied. Maybe both. Perhaps even at the same time,” he says.

“To me, this is the kind of nuanced discussion we need to be able to readily enter into.” 🌿





# Anthology explores women's concussions, grapples with meaning of recovery

*'We are all vulnerable,' editor says of far-reaching impacts of brain injury*

by Margaret Anne Fehr

## IMPACT

### *Women Writing After Concussion*

Edited by E. D. Morin and Jane Cawthorne

University of Alberta Press

\$26.99 pb, 306 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77212-581-8

Available as an ebook

The anthology *Impact: Women Writing After Concussion* is a collection of work that sheds light on the array of symptoms associated with concussion, showing how over 20 writers who have had concussions manage their personal and professional lives. Jane Cawthorne and E. D. Morin, co-editors of the book, count themselves among those writers.



Jane Cawthorne

Julia Nunes, one of the contributors, wrote, "Could there be a less injury-prone occupation than writer?"

Turns out that a concussion can happen any time and to anybody, even to people in relatively sedentary jobs. "That is why reading *Impact* is a little scary," says Toronto-based Cawthorne. "We are all vulnerable. Again, we've all learned recently how life changes in an instant."



E. D. Morin

"When we talk about concussion, we automatically tend to think about men in professional sport," says Calgary-based Morin. "Women play sports, too, and some of our writers got concussed playing hockey, soccer, and roller derby. There are skiing and cycling accidents as well."

Concussions also happen in mundane ways like bumping a head against a shelf, or accidentally knocking heads with a child.

Cawthorne was surprised to hear that many concussions result from wheelchairs falling over. "And far too many are the result of intimate partner violence," she adds.

The collection is currently being used as the basis for a study of women and concussion led by a team at the Head Injury Clinic at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Both Cawthorne and Morin hope it will be part of a larger and very important conversation about women and concussion.

The beauty of an anthology is that it offers so many perspectives. The two editors expect a wide readership for *Impact* since it addresses several broad topics, including women's health, illness and recovery, ableism and disability studies, literary memoir, writing about trauma, intimate partner violence, and sports injury.

"There are themes here that go well beyond brain injury," says Cawthorne. "So there is a lot here for a whole range of readers."



*Impact* is also for readers who enjoy excellent writing. There are traditional essays, poems, cross-genre pieces, and more experimental works to explore.

"The quality of material submitted was already wonderful," says Morin. "There was some editing, of course. And it's important to remember that everyone is in some stage of brain injury."

And whatever stage of injury the writers are in, "recovery" is an elusive part of it.

"Many of the writers, including both of us, grappled with what recovery means when there is no going back to the people we were," says Cawthorne. "And we actively resisted the 'silver-lining' narrative. Sometimes, something new or good can happen, but not necessarily."

"Sometimes recovery is a tough slog to get you somewhere you never really wanted to be. But there you are. And there is good in this new place. You are still worthy in this place and still have value. Sometimes recovery means acceptance. Sometimes it means figuring out how to do the things you want to do in a new way. It's not easy, but the capacity to adapt is important." 🌿

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## MORE DRAMA

### CANADIAN RAJAH

Dave Carley

This true story of Esca Brooke Daykin, the first-born son of the “White Rajah of Sarawak,” tells of how his existence was erased from history and of his efforts to have his identity recognized after a life spent exiled from that British colony (now part of Malaysia) to the backwoods of eastern Ontario. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-90-3)

### DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

Cat Walsh

It’s 1963, and 12-year-old Genevieve is wrestling with the patriarchal Catholic Church, dealing with her mother’s unexplained absence and the disappearance of her friend Martin, and learning too

much about her father’s sins, in this play about the relationship between faith and trust and the questioning of authority and reality.

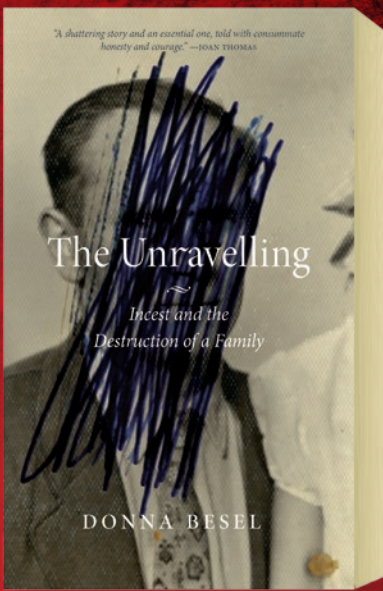
(Playwrights Canada, \$18.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-278-2)

### A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR

Rachel Blair

A woman, with the “help” of a man, sets out to tell and then perform a joke for the audience, but lines between performers and characters blur as the gender politics between the man in the bar and the waitress lead to questions about what is funny and what is offensive and who owns the story.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-88-0)



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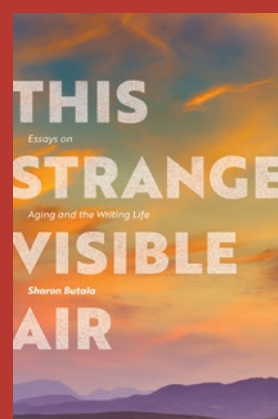
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# Scholar-activist considers de-growth for a sustainable future

*Keough questions suburban sprawl, possibility of changing people's mindset*

by Kam Teo

## SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

*Prospects for a Just Transition in Calgary, Canada's Petro-City*

Noel Keough with Geoff Ghitler

University of Calgary Press

\$34.99 pb, 368 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77385-248-5

Available as an ebook

Worldwide recognition of climate change highlights the need for economic, social, and environmental sustainability. It is within this context that Noel Keough wrote *Sustainability Matters: Prospects for a Just Transition in Calgary, Canada's Petro-City* with Geoff Ghitler, using Calgary as a microcosm of global issues.

Following introductory chapters that provide some background – explaining the idea of “sustainable development” and giving a history of Calgary – the book includes brief, potent essays organized into overlapping sections that address complex issues of suburban sprawl, governance and control, transportation, culture and attitudes, economy, energy resources, and social equity and diversity.



Noel Keough

The book describes how, for the past 30 years, the city of Calgary has struggled with the concepts of sustainability and development. Urban development has been seized by the city elites – “business leaders, land and real estate developers, and politicians” – throughout the city’s history.

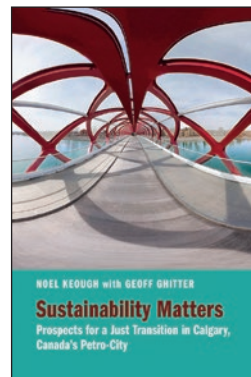
Suburban sprawl, one of the key issues addressed, is inherently unsustainable and unhealthy, leading to overconsumption through the overuse of automobiles, among other problems. For the University of Calgary professor of environmental design, education of Calgarians is key.

“It is not a matter of convincing suburbanites to move or give up their homes,” Keough says. “What we need is to diversify [existing] suburbs. [It] is absolutely essential

that we convince those suburbanites, developers, and all Calgarians that we cannot afford, ecologically, socially, or fiscally to continue to build suburbs. So far it is hard to see much success with new suburbs being approved at a rapid rate in contravention of existing policy.”

The book addresses the growing income inequality in Calgary, Canada, and the world, and how it coincides with decreasing urban sustainability. Rather than improving quality of life, strong economic growth has coincided with “stagnating well-being, longer hours of work, decreased leisure, less time with family, and a deteriorating environment.”

The scholar-activist does not only point out problems, but also offers solutions, such as responsible urban planning for high density living, emphasizing a social economy over



capitalism, and diversifying the energy sector to develop solar and wind resources. Such an economy, “built for everyone, designed for the future and for a city that knows how much is enough” is not unrealistic, but requires considerable political will.

Keough admits that changing the mindset of Calgarians is not easy. He says, “We are only just beginning to make room in the conversation for no-growth or de-growth strategies, which I see as absolutely prerequisite for a sustainable future.” A “radical new strategic thrust in Calgary, one that transitions us to a no-growth world, gets serious about climate change, fosters greater economic equality, and is a catalyst for a post-fossil fuel future” is what is needed.

In spite of the challenges faced, Keough is still *almost* optimistic.

“I am always hopeful,” he says. “Optimistic, well, it is hard to be optimistic given our history. Yet, where I do find optimism is in the fact that Calgary is changing rapidly.

“There is a great phrase I learned in Latin America – *acompanimiento*. It means that those with power and knowledge offer it in service of the community. In Calgary we need those now on the commanding heights to come down and accompany a new generation to the top.”



# Novella asks what world could become 'if people don't take climate change seriously'

*Curveball of new fungal disease complicates perception, memories in Mohamed's tale*

by Ian Goodwillie

## THE ANNUAL MIGRATION OF CLOUDS

Premee Mohamed

ECW Press

\$19.95 pb, 170 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77041-593-5

Available as an ebook

Climate change continues to make alterations to the world in unpredictable ways, the impact of which will change billions of lives. It is a scenario that an increasing number of people are worried about. And that concern is at the core of *The Annual Migration of Clouds*.

Premee Mohamed's new novella takes that reality and twists it by setting a post-apocalyptic climate change story in Alberta and throwing a curveball or two over the plate.

Why did she choose that specific province? "I think part of it was that I've never really set a story in my home – not the full story, anyway," Mohamed says.

"I'm immersed in Alberta as a physical entity, and I very much wanted to write about it, even a very small part of it, specifically the river valley here in Edmonton."

The story focuses on Reid, a young woman trying to help her family

survive the new normal while finding her own path. "This is someone dying for novelty and barely aware of it; she's never travelled, she's never had new experiences. She's also driven by her own internal sense of duty, and her upbringing, I think," explains Mohamed. The problem for Reid is that her journey hits a slight speedbump in the form of the *Cadastrulamyces* infection or Cad.

This is one of the big curveballs in this post-apocalyptic story. The Cad is a mysterious, mind-altering fungi that invades the human body and causes some serious problems.

It was based on several infamous real-life fungi and bacteria, including *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Wolbachia*, and *Cordyceps*. Each one of them has varied impacts on the behaviours of the beings they infect, just like the Cad.

Mohamed is well qualified to create fictional medical conditions, as she

is a biologist as well as a speculative fiction writer. When working the Cad into the story, she had a big goal.

"I was aiming at a disease that might strenuously attempt to alter

the host's body in a way to preserve its own existence," she explains,

"which means that those infected with it find themselves wondering whether it also affects their mind, and whether they can trust their thoughts, memories, emotions, and reactions."

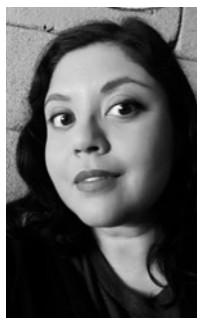
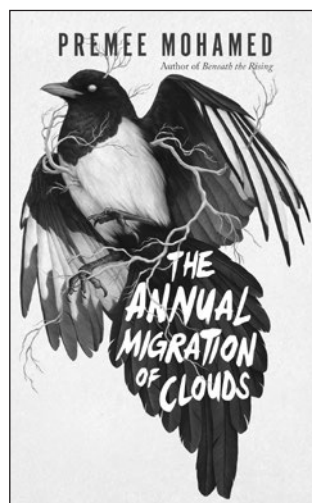
Witnessing Reid trying to navigate this new world with a mind she can't trust is engaging to say the least. But there's more to this story than that. It is an examination of what the world could

look like if people don't take climate change seriously.

"Unfortunately, the problem with climate change is that we can predict some of its effects reasonably well, and others less well," says Mohamed. "The models seem to show that in Alberta, after it warms enough for us to lose all the mountain glaciers, there will be a period of increased precipitation and perhaps major storms. But then what will happen after that?"

What will happen, indeed?

For Mohamed, there is a nugget of hope waiting there. "I think there will be a period of disorder, and then a period of determination, restructuring, and rebuilding," she says. "Or I hope so, anyway." 🌱



Premee Mohamed

# Sagas with environmental undertones leave room for readers to fill in the blanks

*Johnson's previous books honoured Cree ancestry; now he turns to paternal Swedish lineage*

by Ian Goodwillie

## THE BJÖRKAN SAGAS

Harold R. Johnson

House of Anansi Press

\$24.99 hc, 232 pages

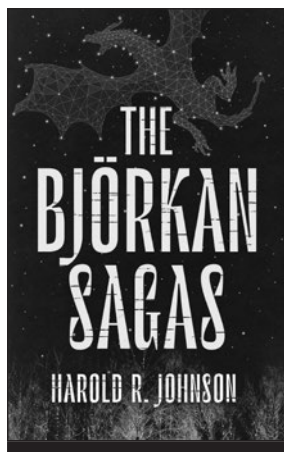
ISBN: 978-1-4870-0980-9

**S**tories are a staple of all world cultures. They convey new ideas and older history. And such stories are at the core of Harold R. Johnson's new novel, *The Björkan Sagas*.

Johnson is a well-known and respected author whose past works have been primarily informed by his Cree ancestry. But *The Björkan Sagas* brings in another part of his heritage. "I have published 10 books; every one of them pays homage to my Cree ancestry. It was time to honour my father, who was born in Sweden," he says.

Putting stories modelled after Scandinavian sagas out in the world has proven to be a bit of a narrative journey. They started off in the simplest of ways for Johnson. "Every night as I lay down, in those moments before sleep, I told myself a little story. I kept adding until I had the entire Björkan saga in my head."

From there, the stories he was creating became a long, narrative poem and eventually something quite different. "I changed it to resemble the Irish and Icelandic sagas, which are primarily prose interspersed with poetic lines."



***"The quality of the finished product is directly proportional to the amount of love the craftsperson puts into the work."*** HAROLD R. JOHNSON

But Johnson has left some blanks for the readers to fill in as they go. "The sagas portion is an attempt to write in a new style – minimalistic. I believe the reader's imagination is far more powerful than any writer can achieve, so, I left lots of room to imagine," he explains.

The exploration of story is key to this book, both for the reader and for the author. "*The Björkan Sagas* is about me exploring my craft as a writer," says Johnson. "True craftsmanship comes from the heart whether you are a cabinet builder, a potter, a knife maker, a metal, wood, or ceramic worker. The quality of the finished product is directly proportional to the amount of love the craftsperson puts into the work."

It's safe to say that an incredible amount of care and attention has gone into *The Björkan Sagas*. Each of the three sagas portrays the importance of balance to sustain the natural world and what can happen when greed and exploitation take over. But any inclusion of environmental themes may have been more on a subconscious level than anything deliberate.

"Environment informs a lot about who I am," says

Johnson, who lives in the boreal forest of Saskatchewan. "I have witnessed the clearcutting of my family trapline, evoking powerful emotions of loss, sadness, and anger. My heart and my spirit were broken. But I did not intentionally bring an environmental message to the work. If it's there, it's because that is who and where I was when I wrote it."

An exploration of cultural identity, the power of the narrative, and the need to respect the environment all exist to an extent in *The Björkan Sagas*. Johnson guides the reader through this adventure of dreams and story with consideration.

"I want the reader to know I care about them as I take them on this journey of exploration," he says. "I will not let you be hurt; I will bring you safely to the far shore." 🌿



Harold R. Johnson

# Beaty threads hope for a better future through collection examining impacts of global warming

*Despite tough topics in stories, view of the future isn't all bleak*

by Margaret Goldik

## THE PARTY IS HERE

**Georgina Beaty**

Freehand Books

\$22.95 pb, 250 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988298-93-1

**G**eorgina Beaty is a successful playwright and actor raised in the Rockies and based in Toronto. Now her accomplished debut story collection *The Party Is Here* fuses relationships and climate change.

"We're already dealing with the cascading impacts of global warming, so I wanted to write stories where climate change is a 'natural' part of the characters' lives, where the extremes that are the new normal are integrated rather than left out. I'm engaged in making the large-scale policy change that's needed to address the reality of global warming," Beaty says.

The title story, "The Party Is Here," is set in a national park, now owned by a private company. The new owners would be delighted if the fauna would die out so they could resume mining the area. One of the last park rangers notes how in olden days miners would "light a Joshua tree on fire every night, so that their buddies from the other camps knew where to go. What's a tree or two to say, hey, here's where the party's at." Because

of climate change there is now one Joshua tree left.

Some of the stories are fantastical, as in "We Were Trees," when in El Árbol women literally – but temporarily – become trees. "Whiff" paints an astute picture of addiction, although the substance in question is highly unusual. And Beaty slyly adds some iconic figures – the Beverley McLachlin School for Girls, a look-in by Anne Carson.

Privileged school girls in "Be It Resolved" adopt endangered animals without any idea of what these creatures – a bear, a vole, a Panamanian golden frog – truly need. And people can be naïve in their understanding of other species, as in "The Ruende" where the protagonist is told that a menacing pack of feral dogs wouldn't hurt her if she was "right with [her]self."

Climate change affects many areas of the characters' lives. "Many of the stories address fertility and motherhood in some way, which I didn't anticipate," says Beaty. "In 'Shelter Seekers' I'm probing (with absurdity) the notion that one might make the decision to not have a child based on climate change. Certainly

these are things I grapple with, but I think for most of us, it's a different part of our brains/bodies – the part that absorbs and understands an unfolding climatic disaster and the part that decides to have kids."

Beaty's stories are funny, chilling, rueful, absurd, full of loss and the

hope of transformation. In *The Party Is Here*, spawning salmon and permaculture work-arays in Patagonia combine with spectacles of ice shows for the rich as the world bakes, painting a sobering picture of our world.



Beaty's view of the future isn't all bleak. "I'm interested in 'hope' in the way Rebecca Solnit speaks of it," she says. "Hope that engages with the truth of what is going on, and hope that activates people to make change and push for change to make the world more sustainable."

"I don't have hope that we'll go back to the world that any of us grew up in (environmentally speaking); we can't turn back, but I hope we can contribute to a much better future." 🌱



Georgina Beaty

EMILY RAY REESE



## MORE ENVIRONMENT

### PICTURE BOOK

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#### **SONG FOR THE SNOW**

Jon-Erik Lappano, illustrated

by Byron Eggenschwiler

This lyrical fable about climate change and the power of shared traditions shows how young Freya longs for the snow, which hasn't visited her town for two winters. When she finds a snow globe at the market, the song it plays inspires the townspeople to sing together with hope. (Groundwood Books, \$19.99 hc, 44 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77306-268-6)

### FICTION

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#### **LAST TIDE**

Andy Zuliani

In the near future, Ana and Win work at photographing vacant lots and old industrial sites, cataloguing the decline of capitalist excess and digitally scrubbing people from the record. When they are sent to an island in the Pacific Northwest, they befriend Lena, an oceanographer and climate scientist, and await "the big one," a cataclysmic earthquake and tsunami. (NeWest, \$21.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-034-4)

### NON-FICTION

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#### **ENERGY IN THE AMERICAS: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON ENERGY AND HISTORY**

Edited by Amelia Kiddle

This collection of essays historicizes the experiences of energy producers and policy makers, and assesses the interplay between environmental, technological, political, and ideological influences within and between the countries of North and South America.

(University of Calgary Press, \$44.99 pb, 416 pages, with illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-55238-939-3, available as ebook)

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#### **GRASSLANDS GROWN: CREATING PLACE ON THE U.S. NORTHERN PLAINS AND CANADIAN PRAIRIES**

Molly P. Rozum

Rozum argues that environmental awareness is key to developing a regional identity and sense of place in her study of

the transnational ecological region of the U.S. Great Plains and the Canadian Prairies. She examines micro-environments, race relations, art and literature, and the interactions of agriculture and land conservation through the experiences of generations of people in the area. (University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 512 pages, with maps and illustrations, ISBN: 978-0-88755-847-4, available as ebook)

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#### **GREATEST GARDEN: THE PAINTINGS OF DAVID MORE**

Mary-Beth Laviolette

Among Alberta artist David More's lifetime of work, amidst paintings of private planted gardens and public parks, are ones of the ghostly New Brunswick forests dying from acid rain in the 1980s and ones of the ferocious central Alberta clouds affected by climate change in the 1990s. (University of Calgary Press, \$39.99 pb, 128 pages, 60 colour images; ISBN: 978-1-77385-224-9, available as ebook)

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#### **GROWING AND EATING SUSTAINABLY: AGROECOLOGY IN ACTION**

Dana James and Evan Bowness

Through stories and photographs, this book shines light on the process of agroecological transitions in southern Brazil – a process that follows ecological principles for growing food in a way that respects diverse socio-cultural contexts, connects urban eaters and rural growers, and attends to power dynamics. (Fernwood Publishing, \$28.00 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-482-1, available as ebook)

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#### **HIDDEN SCOURGE: EXPOSING THE TRUTH ABOUT FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY SPILLS**

Kevin P. Timoney

This book exposes the falsity of regulatory reporting of energy industry spills, presenting evidence of rampant destruction of biodiversity, persistent soil contamination, failed reclamation, and thousands of undocumented spills – evidence of how hydrocarbon-based economies damage the ecosystems where fossil fuels are extracted. (McGill-Queen's University Press, 480 pages, with figures and tables, \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0894-1; \$140.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0893-4; available as ebook)

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#### **LIFE IN THE CITY OF DIRTY WATER**

Clayton Thomas-Muller

This memoir of a nationally and internationally recognized activist and survivor weaves together the urgent issues of Indigenous rights and environmental policy to offer a story and vision of healing and responsibility. Thomas-Muller's Cree spirituality and connection to his home territory in northern Manitoba helped him overcome experiences of domestic and sexual abuse, intergenerational trauma, racism, and imprisonment, and now fight for environmental justice.

(Allen Lane Canada-Penguin Random House, \$32.95 hc, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-4006-3, available as ebook and audio book)

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#### **MENNONITE FARMERS: A GLOBAL HISTORY OF PLACE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Royden Loewen

This comparative world-scale environmental history draws on a multi-year study of seven geographically distinct Anabaptist communities in Bolivia, Canada, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Russia, the United States, and Zimbabwe to show how modern-day Mennonite farmers have adjusted to diverse temperatures, precipitation, soil types, and relative degrees of climate change.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 352 pages, with bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-966-2, available as ebook)

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#### **MINING COUNTRY: A HISTORY OF CANADA'S MINES AND MINERS**

John Sandlos and Arn Keeling

This first illustrated history of Canada's mining industry examines themes such as the fraught relationship of the industry with Indigenous Peoples, the experiences of workers in the mines, the establishment of mining communities, the destructive environmental impacts of mining, and the legacy of mining – how it is commemorated and how some steps are being taken to remediate the damage it has done.

(James Lorimer & Company, \$29.95 pb, 224 pages, with b/w and colour images, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1353-5)

# Kohlman's second cookbook incorporates veggie notes from farmer boyfriend

*Author hopes to help rekindle readers' love of vegetables, gardens, and their own kitchens*

by Shirley Byers

## VEGETABLES: A LOVE STORY

*92 Heartwarming Recipes from the Kitchen of Sweetsugarbean*

Renée Kohlman

TouchWood Editions

\$45.00 hc, 304 pages

with full colour images throughout

ISBN: 978-1-77151-340-1

Available as ebook



Renée Kohlman

Renée Kohlman describes her second cookbook as “a love story about food and a food story about love.” It is appropriate, therefore, that “Asparagus and Eggs” is the first recipe in its pages, honouring the asparagus her partner Dixon Simpkins, a farmer, presented to her on their first date.

“The recipes in *Vegetables: A Love Story* are pulled from notebooks

of long ago and yesterday, from my mom’s memory, from my popular food blog *Sweetsugarbean*, and, most importantly, from my heart. I’ve loved creating every single vegetable-focused recipe, and I hope this book will inspire you in your own gardens, kitchens, and love stories,” she writes in the book’s introduction.

From asparagus to zucchini, from cabbage rolls to chickpea salad, from romesco sauce to Roasted Root Vegetable Pot Pie with Gruyère Biscuit Topping, these recipes are sure to appeal to cooks and readers.

“I tried very hard to make the recipes as simple and straightforward as possible,” Saskatoon-based Kohlman says. “The ingredient lists don’t have anything too hard to find, and most of the stuff is likely in your pantry or refrigerator already.”

Kohlman says that her love for books began in Grade 4, and in high school she took all the art classes she could

get into, as well as home economics. She later obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art from Concordia University and a diploma in culinary arts from NAIT in Edmonton.

“After I graduated from art school, I had difficulty finding a job and knew that I needed a skill that would make me employable,” she explains. “Cooking school seemed like a great choice as I loved to cook and feed people, and I was passionate about learning and creating a life in the culinary world.”

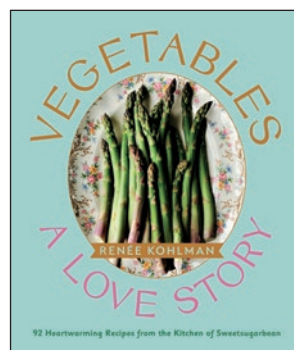
Her editor, Lesley Cameron, who also worked with her on her first book, *All the Sweet Things*, came up with the idea of “Dixon Says” – passages at the end of sections throughout the book, written by Simpkins. “She said it would be lovely if my vegetable farmer boyfriend Dixon would offer up some growing tips or other bits of useful information about each particular vegetable. Of course she was right!” says Kohlman.

“I really love what he has written, and I’m sure the readers will enjoy hearing his voice in the book, too. I

think our compatibility really shines through when you read what he says along with what I have to say.”

As in her first cookbook, Kohlman has designed and shot all the photos herself.

“I really love writing cookbooks,” she says. “The whole process is super enjoyable. Everything from recipe testing, to styling the shot and editing the photos,



to writing the headnotes and essays is a lot of fun and makes good use of my creative talents. I love how I’ve been able to combine both areas of my post-secondary education in fine and culinary arts together in these two cookbooks.

“If there is to be a third, it will be down the road a little bit. Right now my focus is getting as many copies of *Vegetables: A Love Story* into readers’ hands, and to get them excited about cooking vegetables!” 🌿

## Scholar studies Métis spirituality to help reconnect people to the healing power of ceremony

*Chantal Fiola's second book on Métis spirituality inspired by learning about Indigenous ceremony as a student*

by Rhonda Kronyk

### RETURNING TO CEREMONY *Spirituality in Manitoba Métis Communities*

Chantal Fiola

University of Manitoba Press

\$27.95 pb, 306 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88755-962-4

Available as an ebook

When University of Winnipeg Michif scholar Chantal Fiola began learning about Indigenous ceremonies as an MA student at the University of Toronto, she did not expect her experiences to lead to groundbreaking research.

Ten years later, and now an associate professor in the Urban and Inner-City Studies Department at the University of Winnipeg, Fiola is releasing her second book about Métis spirituality, *Returning to Ceremony: Spirituality in Manitoba Métis Communities*.

Whereas in Fiola's first book, *Rekindling the Sacred Fire*, she interviewed individuals and their relationship to ceremony, this book takes a more community-centred approach, studying six Manitoba Métis communities. Both books look at Métis spirituality through a Métis-based research lens and from the perspective of Indigenous ceremony rather than Christian religions.

When Fiola began learning about ceremony from a Métis professor at the University of Toronto, she didn't see a lot of Michif (the name Red River Métis use to identify themselves) people.

"And so that just kind of fueled my curiosity, and I started digging in the archives and asking Métis people around me if they or their families carried any stories about Métis people participating in ceremonies historically. And I was curious about other Métis folks who were participating contemporarily," she says. "And then I was off and running."

Canada's colonial legacy caused many families to be disconnected from their relationships with ceremony. As

a result, there are stereotypes that Métis people are Christian, generally Roman Catholic, and that ceremonies – such as smudging and sweat lodges – are practised by First Nations only.

Fiola's research definitively proves that Métis people have participated in ceremony from the birth of their nation. She proposes that modern Métis spirituality exists on a continuum with Christianity at one end and Indigenous ceremony at the other.

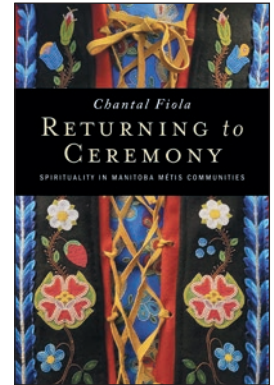
Building her own connections to ceremony helped Fiola find a spiritual connection she was missing. "By that time, I had distanced myself from the Roman Catholic Church because I didn't feel like I was nurtured there as a Michif person, as a woman, as a Two-Spirit person." And when she started going to ceremonies, she felt that "all parts of me were nurtured and encouraged."

Fiola believes in the power of ceremony. "We're healing ourselves, our families, our communities, our nation," she says. "We can even heal the relationship between First Nations and Métis, like our kinship relationships."

Fiola delves into difficult conversations about raceshifting; colonial divisions between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples; stereotypes about Métis spirituality that contribute to divisions between Indigenous Peoples; and the colonial legacy of disconnection to culture.

Fiola's two books are not the end of her research into this new field of study. In September, she begins her three-year position as University of Winnipeg Distinguished Indigenous Scholar's Chair. She will expand on her findings in *Returning to Ceremony* and the idea of Métis spirituality existing on a continuum.

Scholarship on Indigenous history is challenging in today's political climate. "Thankfully, we've got powerful examples from history about how Indigenous nations can work together," Fiola says. "We even have examples of how Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can work together in a good way." 🌿



Chantal Fiola



# Memoir an ode to Indigenous Elders, with hope for helping others to heal

*Campbell's writing resists colonial storytelling practices and narrative forms*

by Paula E. Kirman

## SPÍLƏXM

*A Weaving of Recovery, Resilience, and Resurgence*

Nicola I. Campbell

HighWater Press-Portage & Main Press

\$32.00 hc, 328 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55379-935-1

Available as an ebook

Nicola I. Campbell, a Nl̓eʔkepmx, Syilx, and Métis writer from British Columbia, has written a powerful memoir, *Spíləxm: A Weaving of Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence*. The book combines prose and poetry to tell her journey of overcoming adversity and colonial trauma, while finding strength through traditional perspectives of healing and transformation.

*Spíləxm* was more than 25 years in the making. Originally submitted as a Creative Writing MFA thesis, Campbell began revising the collection so that she could help others with her story of healing and of how the stories and resilience of her Elders and ancestors grounded her.

Acknowledging the courage and struggle of her Elders, “knowing the absolute and utter devastation they carried as a result of surviving Canada’s pervasive, and strategic efforts of enacting genocide on

Indigenous people” kept her going when she wanted to give up. “Our Indigenous culture, stories, languages would not be here if not for the perseverance and resistance of my Elders and ancestors,” Campbell says.

*Spíləxm* is empowered by Indigenous poetics and storytelling practices.

“I feel that the english literary tradition and publishing community has ideologies on how stories ‘should’ be told, especially Indigenous narratives and storytelling practices,” says Campbell, who was inspired by the book *Indigenous Poetics in Canada*, edited by Neal McLeod.

“As an Indigenous writer, these english ideologies are a tradition situated in oppression and control. They silence and devalue the voices of Indigenous writers – rhythms, cadence, flow, and especially languages that do not fit the colonizers’ expectations – while also completely destroying Indigenous languages around the world.”

Campbell is grateful that her publishers honoured her words as they worked with her. “This is who I am. This is the way the stories have chosen to flow. I have done my absolute best to create written work that honours my voice, while [it] is also at a calibre that honours my Elders who were speakers,” she says. “I feel inadequate, not only because I don’t speak or understand my Elders and do not speak my language,

but because I have to write in english, a language with a history of oppressing Indigenous voices.”

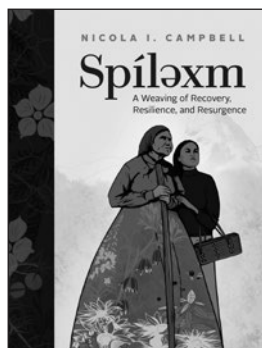
Campbell hopes that *Spíləxm* will help facilitate true reconciliation,

creating awareness and understanding. “If non-Indigenous people read Indigenous writing, each book is one step in their healing, in their understanding, in their acceptance, and in their journey of truth and integrity in honouring what has taken place in Canada,” she says.

Reading alone does not solve the problem. Canadians also need to speak loudly, and use their status and roles in Canadian society every day in order to effect change. “Non-Indigenous Canadians need to stand up in true allyship with Indigenous communities across Canada and locally in their own community and within their own families, especially towards ending their roles in sustaining and benefiting from racism,” says Campbell. “It needs to be their normal.”

Most of all, Campbell hopes that *Spíləxm* will help other Indigenous people as they heal. “This collection is written in honour of our Indigenous Elders and loved ones across tmíxw, temexw, tmxulaxw Turtle Island, and around the world.

“If there is one person who is struggling, if this helps them on their healing journey, that is who it is written for.” 🌿



Nicola I. Campbell

KALVIN WARBUS PHOTOGRAPHY

# Memoir makes use of ‘outlier forms,’ including word search, crossword puzzle

*Forms chosen by best service of the tale, as McCandless covers tough subjects*

by Margaret Goldik

## PERSEPHONE'S CHILDREN

### *A Life in Fragments*

Rowan McCandless

Rare Machines-Dundurn Press

\$22.99 pb, 328 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4597-4761-6

Available as an ebook

Rowan McCandless, currently the creative non-fiction editor at *The Fiddlehead*, is a Winnipeg writer whose short story “Castaways” was long-listed for the Journey Prize, and whose essay “Found Objects” won the Constance Rooke Creative Nonfiction Prize.

*Persephone's Children: A Life in Fragments* is a memoir in the form of essays, in which McCandless looks back on an abusive domestic relationship through a variety of forms. And as a biracial woman of colour, she unravels the various threads that have made up the fragments not only of her life, but those of her ancestors.

About the title, *Persephone's Children*, McCandless says, “I had always been intrigued by the myth of Persephone; how she was forced to reside in liminal spaces through no fault of her own. Persephone resonated with me as a child of a mixed-race marriage; having to negotiate through two different worlds.”

These are definitely not your grandmother’s memoirs! McCandless describes herself as a “proud creative outlier,” who weaves “traditional literary techniques with subversive forms.”

She explains: “The term *outlier forms* was created by one of my mentors, Nicole Breit, in 2016. It is an umbrella term for those works that push the boundaries of more traditional essays. These are the works whose

structures are experimental in nature, that are often non-linear and fragmented.”

One of the forms McCandless favours is the hermit crab essay, which she describes as “a structure in which the container acts as a shell to hold the story. The term the *hermit crab essay* was first coined by Suzanne Paola and Brenda Miller in their book, *Tell It Slant*. Hermit crab essays can take the form of a list, a recipe, pharmaceutical instructions; the possibilities are endless.”

Sharing one’s story takes courage, and McCandless’s story was especially challenging. “These forms allowed me some emotional distance,” she says.

“They held the perimeters of how the essays would be constructed as I wrote them. In using such structures, it became a puzzle to be solved. What form do I use to best tell the tale?

What shell works best with the story?

Which POV do I use? All of these considerations gave me a buffer, the emotional distance necessary to tell those difficult stories.”

The intergenerational issues are dissected in “Blood Tithes: A Primer,” while the abusive relationship is brilliantly captured in “Binding Resolutions,” the contract between McCandless and her abuser, and in “Vocal Lessons: A Diagnostic Report,” a report from a therapist looking for reasons why McCandless has lost the strong confident voice of her youth.

A crossword puzzle, a word search, a play, a teenage assault rendered as archaeological field notes – these are only a few of the ways in which McCandless examines her life. In the essay “Thoughts on Keeping a Notebook,” McCandless describes the steps in considering a notebook, first as a betrayer of secrets, and finally as the catalyst in finding a writing community that allows her voice and talent to blossom.

With the outlier forms, McCandless says she “finally discovered my voice and a way into crafting essays. It reminded me of the freedom of expression and improvisation held in Jackson Pollock’s paintings and John Coltrane’s music.” 🌿



Rowan McCandless



# Authors make case for schools to be as inclusive as possible for 2SLGBTQ+ students

*Book aimed at those working in schools, as well as lawmakers*

by Paula E. Kirman

## MAKING THE CASE

*2SLGBTQ+ Rights and Religion in Schools*

Donn Short, Bruce MacDougall, and Paul T. Clarke

UBC Press

180 pages

\$29.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-7748-8071-8

\$74.95 hc, ISBN: 978-0-7748-8070-1

Available as an ebook

The school environment can be difficult to navigate for any young person. Students who are 2SLGBTQ+ are especially challenged when the expression of their sexuality or gender is perceived as a threat to a school's values. How Canadian law responds to the "competing human rights claims" of people asserting sexual minority rights and those asserting religious rights is explored in *Making the Case: 2SLGBTQ+ Rights and Religion in Schools*.

The book's three authors say that, while a lot of progress has been made on issues to do with sexuality and rights in the past couple of decades, children are sometimes an afterthought – if they are thought of at all.

"2SLGBTQ+ kids are often situated in home situations that are not accepting or understanding. Schools are the place where they should feel able to be safe and comfortable within their own skins and to thrive," says Bruce MacDougall, a professor in the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia.

"One of the common threads in the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ students, their allies, teachers, and administrators was the role of religion and the impact of religion in schools," Donn Short, professor in the Robson Hall Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba, explains.

"So it was the inevitable next step to produce a study that now brought all that together with its primary focus on religion and religion-based attitudes and arguments about the place of 2SLGBTQ+ students in school."

The book is aimed at those who want to build safe and inclusive schools for 2SLGBTQ+ students, as well as "all school leaders and policy makers including school board personnel (including superintendents and directors), trustees, and ministries of education," according to Paul T. Clarke, a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina.

In addition, the authors wanted to reach those involved in the legal system and lawmakers (including judges). "But especially we wanted to reach the kids. We hope that anybody interested in making schools inclusive will enjoy the book and find it useful," says MacDougall.

"I hope that people who read this book come to understand that the law



Donn Short



Bruce MacDougall



Paul T. Clarke

is much more on the side of people making schools safe and inclusive for 2SLGBTQ+ students than they might think – a lot more," adds Short.

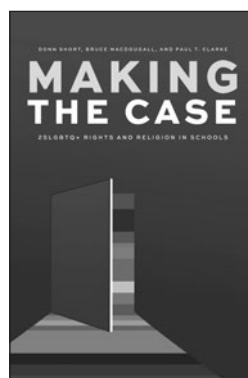
"For the most part, religious ideology and religious claims have been used successfully in the past to undermine the equality rights and interests of 2SLGBTQ+ students. Our book demonstrates that this is now changing because we are finally taking the idea of safe schools seriously," says Clarke.

"This means that outdated, harmful, and discriminatory laws, policies, and practices are now being rightfully challenged to make our schools more inclusive, accommodating, and caring."

The authors emphasize that since schools are the main place where social attitudes are formed, it is critical that schools be made as inclusive and accepting as possible.

As MacDougall summarizes: "This is especially true for 2SLGBTQ+ kids (and for non-2SLGBTQ+ kids, too) because these kids can have awkward or even hostile home and community environments where their identities are devalued or ignored.

"Schools really matter. For everybody." 🌿





## MORE NON-FICTION

### ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

**ANCESTORS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF WESTERN CANADA IN HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS**  
Sarah Carter and Inez Lightning

Drawing from the University of Alberta's Bruce Peel Special Collections, this exhibition catalogue introduces historic photographs of Indigenous Peoples of Western Canada, focusing on how the images of the ancestors continue to generate stories and meanings in the present.

(University of Alberta Press, \$39.99 pb, 192 pages, with full colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-55195-454-7)

**BORROWED TIME: CALGARY 1976–2019**

George Webber

For 45 years, Webber has been documenting the public life of Calgary – people playing, arguing, flirting, celebrating, eating, praying, and hugging against backdrops of gas stations, trailer parks, billboards, motels, and pawn shops – in photographs. These photographs, together with micro-essays, highlight the growth of one of Canada's most complicated cities.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$50.00 hc, 176 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-442-0, available as ebook)

**CHRISTI BELCOURT**

Christi Belcourt

Drawn from a national touring exhibition curated by Nadia Kurd, this is the first book devoted to Belcourt's life and work: her early paintings of the interconnectedness of nature, her "flower beadwork" paintings, and her recent collaborations with Knowledge Keeper Isaac Murdoch. The book includes an artist's statement and essays by Sherry Farrell Racette, Dylan Miner, and Nadia Kurd.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$45.00 pb, 136 pages, with 35 reproductions, ISBN: 978-1-77310-243-6)

**THE KOOTENAY WOLVES: FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING A WILD WOLF PACK**  
John E. Marriott

This spectacular photography book is full of behavioural observations and wolf

tales about one of the most secretive wolf families – including Limpy, Whitey, Stranger, and Mom – in the national parks of the Rocky Mountains.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$45.00 hc, 224 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-494-9, available as ebook)

**LAKE OF THE WOODS: GEM OF THE CANADIAN SHIELD**

Photographs by Mike Grandmaison,  
Text by Elizabeth Campbell

This book is Grandmaison and Campbell's ode to Lake of the Woods, located at the tripoint of Ontario, Manitoba, and Minnesota, where lush forests, secluded coves, golden beaches, and lively waterfronts of charming communities provide endless enchantment.

(Vidacom Publications, \$19.95 hc, 128 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77461-005-3)

### BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

**BE FREE: MOUNTAINS, MISHAPS, AND MIRACLES IN AFRICA**

Angela deJong

This collection of travel essays takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride with deJong, who solo backpacked across Africa, without a cell phone, local contacts, or even a concrete game plan, relying on the goodness of humanity.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 304 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-517-5, available as ebook)

**EDWARD FEUZ JR.: A STORY OF ENCHANTMENT**

D. L. Stephen

This is an intimate look at the life and climbs of Swiss alpine guide Edward Feuz Jr., who was smitten with the Canadian landscape and guided all kinds of people, even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, through untrailed forests, up glaciers, to the tops of rocky summits.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$28.00 pb, 288 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-509-0, available as ebook)

**FRAME BY FRAME: AN ANIMATOR'S JOURNEY**  
Co Hoedeman

After surviving the Nazi occupation of Holland and arriving in Montreal with little more than a film reel under his arm, Hoedeman became part of the vanguard

of Quebec animation, working for the National Film Board. This master of stop-motion animated films made film history with his innovative techniques and his films based on Inuit legends.

(At Bay Press, \$32.95 hc, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-55-5)

**HONOURING HIGH PLACES: THE MOUNTAIN LIFE OF JUNKO Tabei**

Junko Tabei and Helen Y. Rolfe,  
based on translations by Yumiko Hiraki and Rieko Holtved

This collection of stories and reflections is based on the memoirs of Junko Tabei (1939–2016), the first woman to climb Mount Everest and the Seven Summits. Until now, her works have been available only in Japanese.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$28.00 pb, 376 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-527-4)

**INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND STREET GANGS: SURVIVANCE NARRATIVES**

Amber, Bev, Chantel, Jazmyne, Faith, Jorgina, and Robert Henry  
Six Indigenous women previously involved in street gangs or the street lifestyle in Saskatoon, Regina, and Calgary collaborated with Robert Henry to share their stories using photovoice, an emancipatory research process where participants are understood to be the experts of their own experiences.  
(University of Alberta Press, \$24.99 pb, 184 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77212-549-8, available as ebook)

**MOSIENKO: THE MAN WHO CAUGHT LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE**

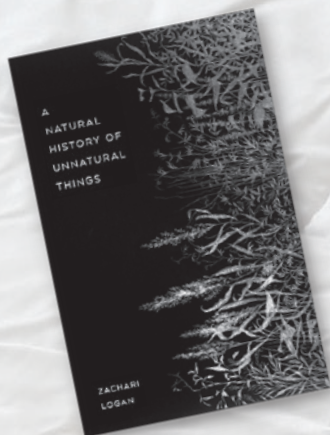
Ty Dilello

This biography tells the story of a Manitoba legend – his childhood spent skating on the rinks of Winnipeg's North End in the 1920s and 1930s, his illustrious 14-year NHL career, his return to Winnipeg to play with the Winnipeg Warriors, and his post-retirement career as the owner of the Mosienko Bowling Lanes.

(Great Plains Publications, \$24.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-062-0)

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*New poetry &  
fiction to cozy up  
with this fall*



*intimate  
& surreal  
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mystery of  
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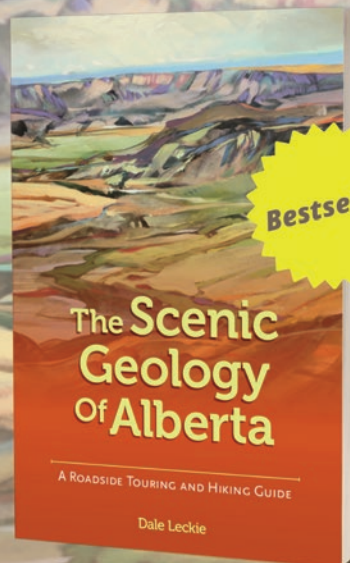


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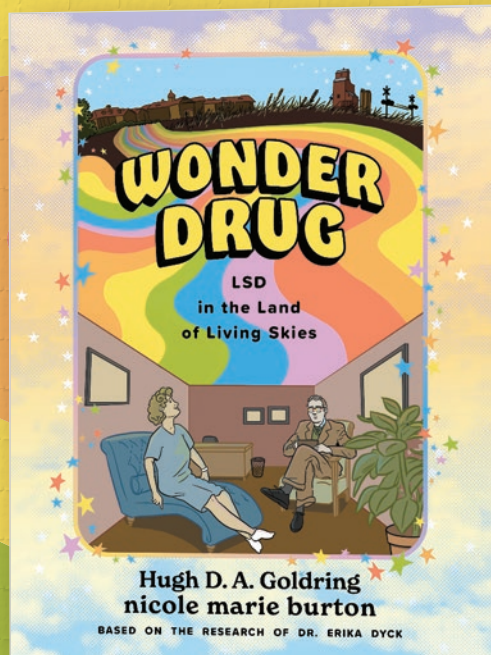
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Sheila North

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(Great Plains Publications, \$24.95 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-066-8)

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Ken Haigh

Walking in honour of his father, who died before they could take the trip together, Haigh takes one of the traditional routes of medieval pilgrims from Winchester to Canterbury, sorting through his spiritual aimlessness with the help of classic British authors.

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Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt

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(Doubleday Canada-Penguin Random House, \$32.95 hc, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3856-9620-3, available as ebook and audio book)

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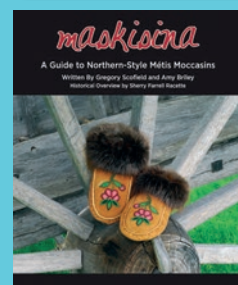
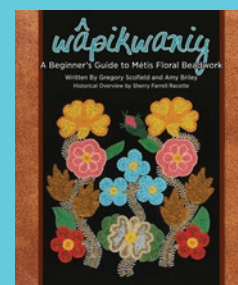
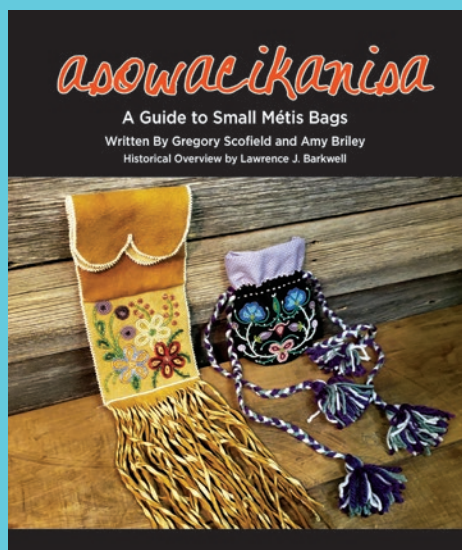
Brandon Pullan

This engaging investigation into the life and death of a legendary climber, paddler, artist, and recluse is based on years of research using Davidson's journals and dozens of interviews with those who knew him.

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Hugh D. A. Goldring, illustrated by nicole marie burton

Illustrated in full colour, this graphic history of the radical and controversial research into the use of LSD in treating mental illness, carried out in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, from the 1950s to the present day, presents Dr. Humphry Osmond and such personalities as Aldous Huxley, Allen Ginsberg, Ken Kesey, and Kay Parley. (Between the Lines, \$21.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77113-559-7)

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Travis Dumsday

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

legal concept and the various realities researchers have discovered. This book addresses those tensions and tests the limits of the concept, and offers solutions to address the limitations of the concept, while preserving its usefulness as an analytical framework.

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Ardath Whynacht

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Travis Hay

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Stobbe describes how and why the "Mr. Big" sting came to be used to trick criminals into confessing, especially those who would never otherwise be caught. (ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 266 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-612-3, available as ebook)

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James Gacek

This study of electronic monitoring and the extension of punishment beyond the prison into everyday life draws attention to how the neo-liberal state outsources the labour of punishment to private corporations and the punished themselves. Gacek also rejects the idea that "soft" punishment is related to the movement for decarceration. (McGill-Queen's University Press, 200 pages, \$120.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0827-9; \$37.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0828-6; available as ebook)

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Chigbo Arthur Anyaduba

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Jerry Haigh

Haigh recounts his decades-long journey to study the state and fate of caribou in North America, along with the millennia-long practice of reindeer herding in Finland, Russia, and Mongolia, uncovering how this species of deer has been woven into the lives of people. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$32.00 hc, 304 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-515-1, available as ebook)

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**ROYALLY WRONGED: THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Edited by Constance Backhouse, Cynthia E. Milton, Margaret Kovach, and Adele Perry

This book dives deeply into the Royal Society of Canada's history to learn why academia has more often been an aid to colonialism than a force against it, and poses difficult questions about what is required – for individual academics, fields of study, and the RSC – to move meaningfully toward reconciliation. (McGill-Queen's University Press, 336 pages, with photos, \$130.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0902-3; \$37.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0903-0; available as ebook)

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Abdolmohammad Kazempur

This study looks at religious trends in Iran since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, and reveals that beneath Iran's religious facade is a deep secularization that manifests not only in individual beliefs, but also in Iranian political philosophy, institutional and clerical structures, and intellectual life. (McGill-Queen's University Press, 384 pages, \$140.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0846-0; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-2280-0847-7; available as ebook)

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**SHADOW PLAY: INFORMATION POLITICS IN URBAN INDONESIA**

Sheri Lynn Gibbings

Gibbings examines how members of the urban underclass in Indonesia use information politics – transparency, rumours, conspiracies, and surveillance practices – to negotiate their rights to urban space in a country undergoing significant social, political, and economic change. (University of Toronto Press, 312 pages, with b/w illustrations, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0819-7; \$36.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2572-9; available as ebook)

## URP grows into wide-ranging publisher while working with underrepresented writers

*Blend of academic and trade titles have attracted attention of provincial and national awards*

by Luis Reis

Known as the “little house on the Prairie with big ambitions,” the University of Regina Press (URP) publishes a mix of trade and academic books for audiences in and beyond the academy in Canada and around the world.

“We strive to develop writers into public intellectuals, encourage debate, publish top-notch scholarship and award-winning books, and inspire young people to study the humanities by producing titles that help inform the most central issues of our time,” acting director Kelly Laycock says. “These aims drive our editorial vision, as does our motto, ‘a voice for many peoples,’ which has guided us in publishing underrepresented authors from all walks of life.”

URP was founded in 1973 as the Canadian Plains Research Centre (CPRC). The press has gone from a small research centre at the University of Regina, publishing important regional documents and scholarly research from Saskatchewan, to the wide-ranging publisher that it is today.

“Redefining itself as a traditional publishing house with a national and international reach since its launch in 2013, URP has had some incredible successes,” says Laycock. “With a team of dedicated and talented publishing professionals, including an award-winning cover designer, URP has published multiple bestsellers that speak to a wider audience and continue to push the boundaries between academic and trade titles.”

URP is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, and Assiniboine, and the homelands of the Métis. “We have worked hard to help share the voices from this land. With a strong Indigenous studies list, including language resources in Cree, Saulteaux, and Nakoda, among others, we try to honour the voices of Indigenous people by sharing their stories to a wide Canadian and international audience,” Laycock says.

URP’s current titles include Indigenous titles, Black Canadian titles, and titles in the areas of Canadian history and politics, environmental studies, food studies, and gender and queer studies.

Efforts at sharing the voices of Indigenous authors in particular have had a profound impact. *Genocidal Love* by Bevann Fox won the Indigenous Voices Award for Creative Nonfiction and Life Writing, and six Sask Book Awards. *In My Own Moccasins* by Helen Knott was long-listed for the RBC Taylor Prize and won the 2020 Sask Book Awards Indigenous Peoples’ Publishing Award.

Their language resource for beginners *Nakón-ì’a wo!:*

*Beginning Nakoda*, compiled by Vincent Collette with Language Keepers Armand McArthur and Wilma Kennedy, won the Saskatchewan Book Awards Publishing in Education Award.

Continuing this work into the future, upcoming in Spring 2022 will be the new intermediate level Cree language resource by Solomon Ratt entitled *âhkami-nêhiyawêtân: Let’s Continue Speaking Cree*, the first in the Continuing Languages series.

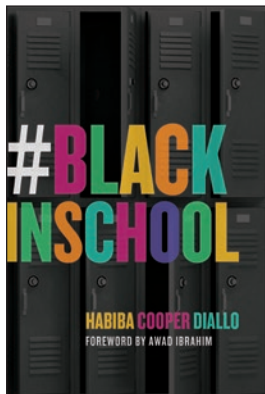
Laycock is enthusiastic about URP’s Fall 2021 season. “We have some incredibly important, exciting books. *#BlackInSchool* by Habiba Cooper Diallo is the author’s

high school journal, in which she recounted, processed, and resisted against the outright and systemic racism she experienced in a Canadian high school. *Bread & Water*, by dee Hobsbawn-Smith, is a stunning collection of creative non-fiction that combines food writing, place, and ruminations on ‘home’ in a truly beautiful way.

*The Unravelling* is Donna Besel’s brave memoir about the horrific abuse she and her siblings suffered at the hands of their father and illustrates what happens to survivors of sexual assault when they step forward, and why they may be hesitant to do so.”

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, URP has adapted their public celebrations and events. “Like the rest of the world, we eagerly await the time when conferences and book launches can resume safely in person. Until then, we’ll be holding online launches for all upcoming books.”

Laycock explains the impact the pandemic has had on URP’s operations and sales. “It’s been a difficult time, for sure. URP has fared well, generally speaking. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we’ve seen an increase



in sales in the 2020 year and greater direct engagement with our readers on our social media channels.”

URP’s success is no accident. “We’ve been successful at helping authors achieve national and international media attention and acclaim. Our team is incredibly knowledgeable and experienced, and our authors are supported every step of the way, from acquisition, design, marketing, and sales. URP’s award-winning art director, Duncan Campbell, creates bold, clever, and beautiful covers, which truly make a difference where sales and marketing are concerned,” Laycock says.

“Just as no two books or authors are the same, our marketing and publicity team creates holistic marketing plans for each author that are specifically designed to reach our target audiences and ensure the author is under the spotlight they deserve.” 🌿

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## MORE FROM URP

### #BLACKINSCHOOL

Habiba Cooper Diallo

In this collection of powerful and insightful diary entries, Cooper Diallo, a Black high school student, illustrates how schools reinforce racism with one-dimensional portrayals of Black people and the targeting of Black students by police, and how her experience is silenced and erased at every turn.

(University of Regina Press, 122 pages, \$20.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-818-4; \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-819-1; available as ebook)

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### BREAD & WATER: ESSAYS

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

These lyrical essays use the two fundamental elements of sustenance – food and water – as a lens through which to explore the hungers of the human soul, mixing themes of floods and place, grief and loss, food as an expression of culture, the politics of local and sustainable food, the restaurant industry, grandmothers and mentors, and aging gracefully.

(University of Regina Press, 240 pages, \$26.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-811-5; \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-822-1; available as ebook)

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### ᓕᓐᓇᓐ / CHÂHKÂPÂS: A NASKAPI LEGEND

Elder John Peastitute, edited by Marguerite MacKenzie, translated by Julie Brittain and Silas Nabinicaboo

This book shares the traditional story of *Châhkâpâs*, a heroic figure who performs feats of strength and skill in spite of his diminutive size, as originally recorded in the Naskapi community in northern Quebec, transcribed in the Naskapi language and syllabic orthography, with an English translation.

(University of Regina Press, \$24.95 pb, 392 pages, with illustrations, glossary, ISBN: 978-0-88977-829-0, available as ebook)

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### GEHL V CANADA: CHALLENGING SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE INDIAN ACT

Lynn Gehl

Using Indigenous methods of first-person experience, embodied knowledge, emotional knowledge, observation, reading, writing, role-modelling, and learning by doing, repetition, introspection, and storytelling, Gehl documents her 34-year fight to change Canada’s *Indian Act* policies regarding unknown and unstated paternity – a harmful colonial legacy that has affected generations of Indigenous women.

(University of Regina Press, 320 pages, \$26.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-825-2; \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-826-9; available as ebook)

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### HONOURING THE DECLARATION: CHURCH COMMITMENTS TO RECONCILIATION AND THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Edited by Don Schweitzer and Paul L. Gareau

These essays from scholars working in the areas of religious studies, Indigenous legal studies, Christian theology and ethics, Indigenous educational leadership within the United Church, and social activism respond meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s Calls to Action and offer resources to help the United Church of Canada and other Canadian denominations to enact their commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

(University of Regina Press, 312 pages, \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-843-0; \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-833-7; available as ebook)

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### KAYAS NOHCIN / ᓕᓐᓇᓐ : I COME FROM A LONG TIME BACK

Mary Louise Rockthunder, edited and translated by Jean L. Okimāsis and Arok Wolvengrey

The beloved storyteller speaks of her memories, stories, and knowledge, revealing her personal humility and her deep love and respect for her family and her nēhiyawēwin (Cree) language and culture. The recordings are transcribed, edited, and translated into Cree syllabics, standard roman orthography for Cree, and English.

(University of Regina Press, 264 pages, \$24.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-838-6; \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-837-5; available as ebook)

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### OWÓKNAGE: THE STORY OF CARRY THE KETTLE NAKODA FIRST NATION

CegáK’iṇna Nakoda Oyáté, with contributions by Jim Tanner, David R. Miller, and Peggy Martin McGuire

This is the first book to tell the definitive, comprehensive history, from pre-contact to present-day life, of the Nakoda People (formerly known as the Assiniboine) in their own words. This history includes their forced removal from their traditional lands in the Cypress Hills to where they currently live south of Sintaluta, Saskatchewan.

(University of Regina Press, 412 pages, \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-814-6; \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-815-3; available as ebook)

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### PITCHBLEND

Elise Marcella Godfrey

Drawing upon the testimony of the people living on the land – Elders, women, trappers – and the responses of biologists and Uraneco representatives, this collection of lyric, prose, and erasure poems presents a crushing exploration of the effects of uranium mining on the eco-system of Rabbit Lake in northern Saskatchewan.

(University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-840-5, available as ebook)



# Teenage chef is challenged to learn about being Filipino through cooking competition

*Story acts as commentary on racial discrimination and stereotypes in real-world chefs' cuisines*

by Amanda Sanders

## LESSONS IN FUSION

**Primrose Madayag Knazan**

Yellow Dog-Great Plains Publications

\$14.95 pb, 240 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77337-068-2

**W**innipeg author Primrose Madayag Knazan takes young adult readers on a journey through the highs and lows of a pandemic-style cooking competition in her novel *Lessons in Fusion*. The main character, Sarah Dayan-Abad, was inspired by the author's children.

"My children are mestizo – a combination of Filipino and Ashkenazi Jew," says Madayag Knazan. "I wanted to write a character my children could identify with."

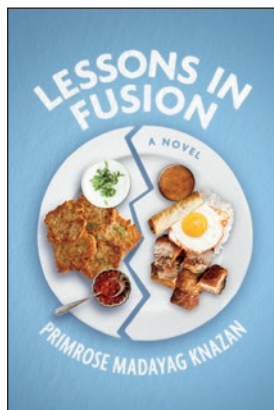
Sarah is a teenage food blogger in Winnipeg who, like Madayag Knazan's children, has a Filipino mother and an Ashkenazi Jewish father, though she was raised as Jewish, surrounded by her Jewish family. Sarah's passion for cooking and putting her own twists on recipes make her a natural for a virtual cooking competition called *Cyber Chef: Next Gen*, a spinoff of the original *Cyber Chef* that

she and her friends love to watch together. When Sarah is accepted into the competition, she is strongly encouraged to cook Filipino-style food, but she doesn't know much about being Filipino.

"Food is often the gateway to other cultures," says Madayag Knazan. "It was a perfect place for Sarah to start her journey."

Madayag Knazan was inspired to write this novel set in pandemic days by a few things – including her son's struggle with virtual learning and growing disinterest in reading. "The stories didn't interest him. He didn't care for dystopian, fantasy, or romance stories. He enjoyed stories based in reality," she explains.

Madayag Knazan ensured that her virtual cooking competition was realistic by drawing from various sources for information. "In June 2020, as the world was starting to open its eyes to the blatant and also not-so-obvious discrimination of people of colour," she says, "I read an article about how non-white chefs were encouraged to feature only dishes that highlighted their own ethnicity: Asian chefs mostly demonstrated Asian food; Black chefs were encouraged to cook Soul Food; South Asian chefs made Indian dishes. Conversely, white chefs were allowed to cook all kinds of cuisine."



The judges in the novel's cooking show judge recipes partly by how clear, easy-to-follow, and thorough the contestants' recipes are. "I heard a podcast about recipe testing, that recipes are only valid if they can be replicated," Madayag Knazan says.

Each chapter of the book begins with one of the author's recipes.

"I rarely measure out ingredients, so the experience of writing out the recipes was an exercise in discipline and focus," Madayag Knazan says.

Like Sarah in the novel, Madayag Knazan is also a food blogger. "I love fusion cooking and combining different flavours," she says. "I especially enjoy challenging myself to create something new."

Madayag Knazan, who is well known as a playwright, has succeeded in creating something new in this novel that is rich in the diversity it portrays and appealing in its realistic contemporary story. Writing and publishing a novel fulfilled a dream she's had since she was 12, and now her dream is to inspire other young people – one in particular.

"My hope is that my son will enjoy the story and fall in love with reading again." 🌿



Primrose Madayag Knazan

# Hockey theme opens door to discussions about grief, anxiety

*Author's love of the sport extends from middle-years novel to non-fiction tale*

by Margaret Anne Fehr

## TAKING THE ICE

**Lorna Schultz Nicholson**

Scholastic Canada

\$9.99 pb, 272 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4431-8239-3

## ALEX OVECHKIN

*Amazing Hockey Stories*

**Lorna Schultz Nicholson**

Illustrated by D. A. Bishop

Scholastic Canada

\$9.99 pb, 64 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4431-8771-8

**T**aking the Ice by Lorna Schultz Nicholson is a novel for middle-years readers that takes a deep dive into the interior life of Aiden Mallory and the many factors that affect his life as he adjusts to the loss of his father in a car accident.

His father's life as a prominent NHL hockey player and his controversial death create seismic repercussions for Aiden and his mother: they move from Florida to a new community in the Canadian Prairies, where Aiden has to make friends at a new school while processing his grief and discovering his personal values.

The story opens with Aiden striving to make his own mark in hockey while dealing with the pride, but also the pressure, that comes from his father's status as an NHL player.

Edmonton-based Schultz Nicholson is a prolific writer of young adult books about sports. "I do love writing about sports as I was an athlete when I was young," she says. "I played all kinds of sports and was so passionate. I loved the teamwork and camaraderie of being on a team. I also loved writing, so I feel I'm so blessed to write about something I love."

As a former hockey mom of three grown children, Schultz Nicholson is well-versed in how hockey affects young players, their parents, and the hockey community at large.



Lorna Schultz Nicholson

In *Taking the Ice*, she wants, first and foremost, for young readers to read and to enjoy. "That's number one. Secondly, I want them to take away that it isn't nice to hurt others, especially someone who might be a bit different," she says. "It's not kind to hurt people, period."

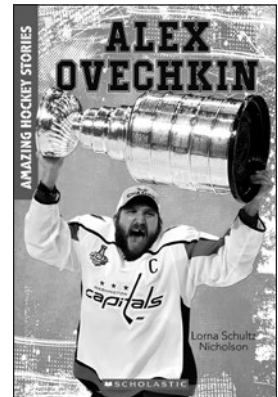
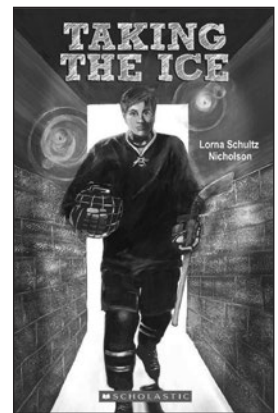
Broadening awareness of the issue of anxiety among young people is another goal. "I also want those who do have a little anxiety to see that others do too, and that they can find a few ways to cope; that it's not weird but something that exists," she says. "Then there's the flip side of that – for those who don't have anxiety to be able to recognize that someone who is having a hard time is not doing it on purpose."

Schultz Nicholson also writes non-fiction, and her new book in the Amazing Hockey Stories series is about Alex Ovechkin. "I really enjoyed writing about him because he had such a different minor hockey experience growing up in Russia," she says.

"During my time writing about Ovechkin I wondered what it would be like to come to a country where you didn't know the language and try to make your way. That's the fun part of writing non-fiction, finding interesting information about other people."

Interesting information and different perspectives are part of fiction, too. *Taking the Ice* is a middle grade sports novel, but Schultz Nicholson wants teachers, librarians, parents, grandparents, and whoever is encouraging reading – "hopefully everyone is" – to know that it is much more than that. "The hockey is a fuel, but there are themes in the book that are universal to all kids," she says.

"It is a book about friendships, grief, kindness, bullying, leadership, teamwork, anxiety, and so much more." ❧



# Passion for hip-hop led to filling a gap in picture book offerings

*Dill calls for rap and spoken word to be seen as legitimate art forms*

by Laura McKay

## WELCOME TO THE CYPHER

Khodi Dill

Illustrated by Awuradwoa Afful

\$21.95 hc, 32 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77321-563-1

When Bahamian-Canadian writer Khodi Dill wanted to share his love for rap with his children, he went looking for picture books about his passion. “I naively went book shopping in Saskatoon. Even going online and searching turned up pretty meagre results. I couldn’t believe

this gigantic gap in the book market,” he explains.

Dill’s new picture book, *Welcome to the Cypher*, is his answer to that gap. Illustrated by Ghanaian-Canadian



Khodi Dill

Toronto-based artist Awuradwoa Afful, the book celebrates the art form and its role in social change.

Dill, a spoken-word and hip-hop artist, wrote the book in a rap-like cadence, giving the text an energetic orality kids are sure to love. The “cypher” in the book’s title refers to how a group of rap artists take turns improvising – also known as freestyling. The book encourages the

reader to join this community and try rap for themselves.

“[My own kids] wow me with their ability to engage with it and beatbox and make up stories and rhymes,” says Dill. “Kids are so imaginative, and that’s what rap, and especially freestyling, fosters – pure uninhibited imagination and creativity.”

As forms of creative self-expression, rap, spoken word, and written poetry are equally valid, although they may not always be treated that way, according to Dill. “Unfortunately, even to this day, rap isn’t afforded the same legitimacy or status as ‘literature’ in most educational settings,” he notes. “Rap and spoken word aren’t some novel trends, as I think they may be perceived as sometimes. The oral tradition in African cultures is literally ancient history. Rap and spoken word are its modern extensions.”

As an anti-racist educator, Dill sees the lack of representation as a symptom of a larger problem. Not validating these forms is “just one of the ways in which oppression manifests itself. And by silencing the art forms, our stories are silenced too.”

The need to combat oppression is expressed in his line “revolution wears a backwards cap.”

Dill explains, “What revolution calls for *necessarily* is doing things differently. The term itself implies

change. Yet, for a lot of folks, change is what they fear the most, especially if it means giving up long-held privileges. But for people who experience oppression, we need change in order to have true equality.

“If that means sticking a children’s

book about a traditionally Black art form in your kids’ hands, then that’s wonderful. Hopefully, it means that and so much more.”

Dill challenges the stereotypes around rap – for example, the ideas that rap



isn’t a legitimate art form and isn’t appropriate for children. He says that these misconceptions are “rooted deeply in anti-Black racism. Writing *Welcome to the Cypher* became partly about peeling back these misconceptions and revealing rap for what it truly is: art, as pure as any other art, and as wonderful and liberating and legitimate too.”

Dill believes in the role of art and self-expression as a catalyst for change. “Art holds within itself immense power for social change,” he says. “When I think about the efficacy of arguing with someone over social media about politics versus the efficacy of telling stories, painting pictures, dancing your heart out, there’s no comparison.

“Art is the stuff that changes hearts and minds.” 🌿



# Novel blends middle-school trials with time travel, alien attack

*Process of creating graphic novel leaves author wanting to make another*

by Ian Goodwillie

## MUDDLE SCHOOL

Dave Whamond

Kids Can Press

\$16.99 hc, 144 pages

ISBN: 978-1-5253-0486-6

**M**iddle school is a trying time for pretty much everyone and anyone. People are going through big changes and starting to find out who they are as individuals. At the same time, they are trying to fit in with the group. Middle school tends to leave a few emotional scars that stick, even after decades have gone by.

Award-winning writer, illustrator, and cartoonist Dave Whamond found a way to sort through the good times and the bad in his new graphic novel, *Muddle School*. It's loosely based on his own experiences of going to a new school at that age.

And it was more than moving up a couple of grades or changing schools. He also moved from an urban environment to a rural one, which added to the potential alienation of the situation.

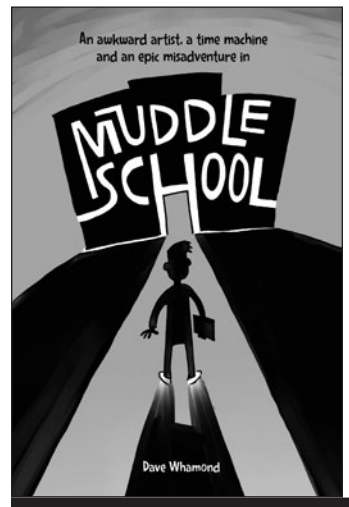
"At first, it was like culture shock to move from a big city to a place with, at first, gravel roads and sand instead of grass for our yard," says Whamond, who is now based in Calgary. "But once I accepted it and truly embraced the place, I grew to love living there, and I never would have changed growing up in that town for anything."

While *Muddle School* began as autobiographical – "starting with getting thrown in a mud puddle because I was wearing a powder blue suit on the first day of school" – Whamond admits that not everything in the story fits in that category. "Obviously, things like the time travel portion and the alien attack never happened," he says, "but I did have an overactive imagination."



Dave Whamond

The star of the story is a boy named Dave, who relies on that imagination and his artistic ability to find his way through the trials and tribulations of middle school – including incidents such as the aforementioned mud puddle and an embarrassing snot bubble during a class presentation.



*"A lot of material could not be included as it was a bit too crazy for a middle school graphic novel."*

His situation is easy for middle-years readers to identify with. "Dave is a typical kid who just wants to fit in and maybe even be liked," says Whamond, "but is full of insecurities, thinking he is the only kid experiencing this."

That sounds like middle school – an experience that can be surprisingly lonely yet communal at the same time.

What might have been the hardest part about this project was deciding what to leave out. "It was tough to edit out some of the stories. A lot of material could not be included as it was a bit too crazy for a middle school graphic novel," says Whamond.

But it's also a good problem to have. "There was so much that I couldn't include in the first book that I would love to do another," he adds.

*Muddle School* is part of a journey, both for Dave in the graphic novel and for Whamond in real life. He leaves an amazing message to readers with this funny, heart-warming trip into the past.

Whamond says, "I think of this story as a way of 'grown up Dave' going back to see 'middle school Dave' and telling him that everything will be alright." 🌿

## MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

### PICTURE BOOKS

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#### ***BEAR WANTS TO SING***

Cary Fagan, illustrated by Dena Seiferling  
With shimmering illustrations, this book shows how Bear, with his desire to share his new song, inspires all the forest animals to perform their music.  
(Tundra Books-Penguin Random House, \$21.99 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6803-6, available as ebook)

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#### ***BEE A FRIEND***

Kerry Sather, illustrated by David Mark  
A bumblebee explores the plants, grass, and soil of a garden, approaching many creatures, including a slug, a snake, an ant, and a mole, to see who would like to be a friend.  
(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-67-3)

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#### ***HOW'S PEANUT?***

Brenda Redman, illustrated by Wendi Nordell  
This playful and colourful book gives a month-by-month update on how "Peanut" is growing before they are born, comparing their size to various foods and detailing each new development.  
(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-66-6)

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#### ***JIGGING FOR HALIBUT WITH TSINII***

Sara Florence Davidson and Robert Davidson, illustrated by Janine Gibbons  
This story of a boy fishing with his tsinii, his grandfather, off the northern tip of the Haida Gwaii, highlights intergenerational knowledge and authentic learning experiences, as they watch the weather, jig for halibut, row with the tides, and clean the fish.  
(HighWater-Portage & Main Press, \$21.95 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-981-8, available as ebook)

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#### ***LEARNING TO CARVE ARGILLITE***

Sara Florence Davidson and Robert Davidson, illustrated by Janine Gibbons  
With the help of his father, grandfather, and other carvers, a boy on Haida Gwaii practises to become a skillful argillite carver. As he works on a new piece, he

remembers a trip to Slatechuck Mountain to gather the stone, as well as his father's teaching about the importance of looking back on where one has come from when moving forward.  
(HighWater-Portage & Main Press, \$21.95 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-984-9, available as ebook)

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#### ***LET'S FLY: A DRAGON'S QUEST IN SASKATOON***

Kathie Cram, illustrated by Kas Rea  
Little Bird, the chickadee, and Red, the baby dragon, fly over Saskatoon looking for Red's family, exploring cultural and heritage sights, such as the Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the Remai Modern art museum, as they go.  
(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-69-7)

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#### ***MY CITY SPEAKS***

Darren Lebeuf, illustrated by Ashley Barron  
A curious girl experiences her city through sounds, smells, tastes, and textures as she makes her way to her violin recital in this colourful and engaging picture book.  
(Kids Can Press, \$19.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-5253-0414-9)

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#### ***NUPTSE AND LHOTSE GO TO THE PRAIRIES***

Jocey Asnong  
Two cats, Nuptse and Lhotse, find themselves in the Prairies after their hot-air balloon is caught in a storm. A scavenger hunt ensues, and they find a meadowlark, saskatoon berry pie, a dinosaur tooth, and much more as they explore Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.  
(Rocky Mountain Books, 40 pages, \$18.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77160-528-1; \$12.00 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77160-529-8; available as ebook)

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#### ***PETAL THE ANGRY COW***

Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Olga Demidova  
Petal is a fine cow – she is a great dancer, a hard worker, and a talented artist. But she has a very out-of-control temper – she's been known to kick, bite, and shout bad words when the other barnyard animals annoy her. And of course, there are consequences.  
(Tundra Books-Penguin Random House, \$21.99 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6468-7, available as ebook)

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#### ***THE STRANGEST THING IN THE SEA***

Rachel Poliquin, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler  
There are many strange creatures in the sea – a swimming head, a feathery dancing tutu – but what is the strangest thing of all? Each creature is introduced with a first-person account of their appearance and an artistic interpretation, followed by a full description of the actual creature in its habitat.  
(Kids Can Press, \$19.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77138-918-1, available as ebook)

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#### ***THINK BIG!***

Robert Munsch, illustrated by Dave Whamond  
Jamal is the biggest kid in his family, and he has the smallest room. So he decides to do something about it – he gets out his father's tools and fixes his room in a big way!  
(Scholastic Canada, \$7.99 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4431-8298-0)

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#### ***WE ARE ONE: HOW THE WORLD ADDS UP***

Susan Hood, illustrated by Linda Yan  
This richly illustrated counting book with rhyming narration also provides informational panels (and source notes) about subjects such as the three lines in a haiku, the four compass points, the five acts in Shakespeare, and the seven colours of a rainbow.  
(Candlewick Press-Penguin Random House, \$17.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-5362-0114-7)

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#### ***THE WONDERS THAT I FIND***

Meghan J. Ward, illustrated by Taylor Odynski  
Geneva's parents take her on a hike to a scenic viewpoint in the mountains. But they are so focused on their destination, they don't see all the smaller wonders – a line of hardworking ants, a bubbling creek, curly ferns – that catch Geneva's attention along the way.  
(Rocky Mountain Books, 40 pages, \$20.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77160-444-4; \$15.00 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77160-445-1; available as ebook)

## EARLY YEARS FICTION

### **RUFF DAY, CHARLIE'S RULES SERIES**

Sigmund Brouwer, illustrated by Sabrina Gendron

In this second book in the series, 11-year-old Charlie is working on a science project with his best friend, Amy, and Jenna Yee, who is too worried about her puppy to focus on the project. Charlie is trying to keep everyone on task, but their task is shifting due to a real-life crisis!

(Orca Book Publishers, \$7.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2589-5, available as ebook)

## EARLY YEARS GRAPHIC NOVEL

### **MAD ABOUT MEATLOAF, WEENIE FEATURING FRANK AND BEANS, BOOK 1**

Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Alexandra Bye  
Weenie, a happy wiener dog, loves his human, Bob, and his best friends, Frank the cat, and Beans the guinea pig. But more than anything, Weenie loves meatloaf, and that gets him into some trouble!  
(Tundra Books-Penguin Random House, \$12.99 hc, 56 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6791-6, available as ebook)

## MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

### **BANK SHOT**

Valerie Pankratz Froese  
Jo is surprised but thrilled when she makes the basketball team. However, the team schedule conflicts with babysitting her younger brother after school, so she secretly arranges for a neighbour to watch him for her. But can she keep the

deception going without dire consequences?  
(Lorimer, \$12.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1639-0, available as ebook)

### **DEAR PETER, DEAR ULLA**

Barbara Nickel

Ulla, a skillful storyteller, lives in Danzig, Germany, and her cousin Peter, a talented pianist, lives on a Mennonite farm in Saskatchewan. The two are great friends, even though they have only met through letters. But the Second World War is threatening to sever their connection, with the world telling them they are enemies. (Thistledown Press, \$12.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-217-1)

### **THE GREAT BEAR, THE MISEWA SAGA, BOOK 2**

David A. Robertson

This second book in Robertson's fantasy series picks up where *The Barren Grounds* left off. Morgan and Eli now make regular trips to Misewa to visit their animal friends and escape personal issues back at home – Eli is being bullied, and Morgan has to decide what to do about her birth mother. But a trip into the past in Misewa finds their friends in danger, and they need all their strength to help them.  
(Puffin Canada, \$21.99 hc, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6613-1, available as ebook and audio book)

### **KYLIE THE MAGNIFICENT**

Marty Chan

Kylie wants to be part of the magician's showcase, but doing her own routine, not as a magician's assistant, which is what the director is thinking. With only one spot for their age group left, Kylie and her best friend Min decide to team up to make the most of their

strengths, but then Kylie's ambition gets the best of her and their friendship is threatened.  
(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2807-0, available as ebook)

### **PADDLE BATTLE**

Eric Howling

Finn is hoping to make the national kayaking team, and making the regional team was a step in the right direction. But Finn's anger about his mother leaving the family and his father's new relationship is having an effect on his performance and his relationships with his teammates.  
(Lorimer, \$12.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1623-9, available as ebook)

### **STRUGGLE FOR HOPE**

Carol Matas

This historical novel follows Ruth, who survived the Holocaust and the long journey to Palestine

where she is once again in a war zone as Israel battles for its existence. While her brother fights on the front lines, she and her boyfriend care for children in a hospital, where Ruth's storytelling sessions take her back to her days in Auschwitz, where her stories saved her life.  
(Scholastic Canada, \$9.99 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4431-3343-2)

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Colleen Nelson

Jane is going to miss her best friend, Sienna, who is moving far away. And Tyson is known as a troublemaker – he can't seem to overcome his reputation. They're drawn together by a secret book club, and as their paths move closer, they find the courage to challenge expectations and take charge of their own identities.  
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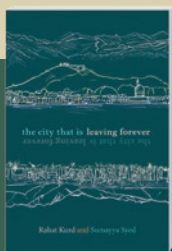
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Rahat Kurd and Sumayya Syed

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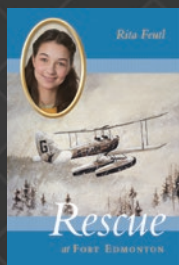
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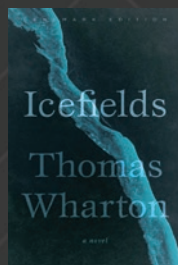
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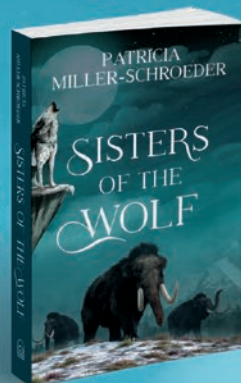
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## L'enfant qui se sent mal dans sa peau, d'après « Tata Wanda »

*Trop d'enfants n'aiment pas leur origine, leur être tout simplement, constate Wanda Jemly*

par Lucien Chaput

### OH, ACHOUKA!

Wanda Jemly

Illustrations de Tea S.

Éditions des Plaines

14,95 \$, couverture souple, 44 pages

ISBN : 978-2-89611-832-1

L'acceptation de soi, de sa culture, de sa différence. Voilà le grand thème de *Oh, Achouka!*, un album jeunesse par Wanda Jemly.

« Il s'agit d'une petite fille noire d'origine africaine dont les parents ont vécu quelque temps en Occident et qui sont retournés en Afrique », dit Jemly, une écrivaine établie à Vancouver depuis une dizaine d'années. « Cette petite fille n'accepte pas d'être Noire, d'être Africaine. Elle refuse tout ce qui a trait à son africanité, sa peau noire, le pagne, la façon de manger avec ses doigts. »



Wanda Jemly

Un jour, Achouka entend une voix qui lui demande pourquoi être Noire, être Africaine, l'embête. Elle dit que si

elle avait la peau blanche, elle serait belle, car dans son entourage, sa Tata, sa tante, qui a la peau claire est reconnue belle.

« Elle va atteindre son rêve, elle va devenir blanche », dit Jemly. « Le problème, c'est qu'elle a oublié que ses parents ne vont pas la reconnaître, elle n'est plus noire. Elle veut être blanche, mais elle aime ses parents qui sont noirs, alors c'est un peu son histoire. »

D'où vient l'idée de ce conte jeunesse? « Ça vient du fait que je suis née au Cameroun, que j'ai passé le temps de mon adolescence en Suisse où j'ai fait mes études et commencé ma vie d'adulte, et que je suis maintenant ici au Canada », dit Jemly. « J'ai vécu dans beaucoup de

## 'Tata Wanda' tells the story of a child not comfortable in her own skin

*Too many kids don't like who they are or where they come from, Wanda Jemly says*

by Lucien Chaput

### OH, ACHOUKA!

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\$14.95 pb, 44 pages

ISBN: 978-2-89611-832-1

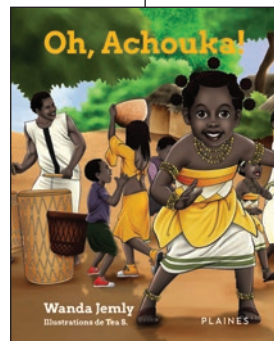
Accepting yourself, your culture, your differences: This is the theme of *Oh, Achouka!*, a picture book by Wanda Jemly.

"It's the story of a little Black girl of African descent whose parents have lived in the West for some time and return to Africa," says Jemly, a writer who has called Vancouver home for the last 10 years. "This little girl cannot accept being Black, being African. She refuses everything about her African identity, the colour of her skin, the traditional dress, eating with her fingers."

One day, Achouka hears a voice asking her why being Black, being African, bothers her so. She says that if she had white skin, she would be beautiful, because in her family, her Tata, her aunt, who has fair skin, is recognized as beautiful. "She achieves her dream, she becomes white," says Jemly. "The problem is that she forgot that her parents won't recognize her, because she is no longer Black. She wants to be white, but she loves her parents who are Black, so it's kind of her story."

Where did the idea for this tale for young people come from? "It comes from the fact that I was born in Cameroon, that I spent my teenage years in Switzerland where I studied and started my adult life, and that I am now here in Canada," says Jemly. "I have lived in many different cultures and in fact, I had to become very, very old to know that I am comfortable being who I am!"

A passionate storyteller for young people, television host, and author, Jemly returns regularly to Africa to



cultures différentes et en fait, il a fallu que je devienne très, très vieille pour savoir que je suis bien comme je suis! »

Conteuse jeunesse passionnée, animatrice et auteure, Wanda Jemly retourne régulièrement en Afrique pour produire sa série *Raconte à Wanda Jemly*, qui est à sa troisième saison à TV5 Monde. « Bizarrement, en retournant en Afrique, j'ai trouvé que beaucoup, beaucoup d'enfants n'aiment pas leurs origines, n'aiment pas leur être, tout simplement », dit-elle. « Et ça n'a rien à voir à ce qu'on soit riche, qu'on soit pauvre, on arrive à avoir un mal-être quelque part et on ne sait pas d'où ça vient. »

Jemly est née dans un pays où l'enfant n'a pas le droit à la parole.

« Quand j'ai eu cette chance – pour moi je vois ça comme une chance – d'écrire, de pouvoir me faire lire par des enfants, c'est comme si je suis en train de me guérir moi, de quand j'étais enfant », dit-elle.

Jemly croit que si on expliquait les choses aux enfants, ça éviterait énormément de souffrances. « Les enfants m'appellent Tata Wanda. Mon rôle, c'est d'apporter des sujets à discuter, des sujets pour lesquels je n'ai pas toujours les réponses. J'essaie d'amener un sujet à la réflexion et si on peut à la discussion avec les enfants. » 🌿

produce her series *Raconte à Wanda Jemly*, now in its third season on the French station TV5 Monde.

“Strangely, when returning to Africa, I found that many, many children do not like their origins; quite simply, they do not like themselves,” she says. “And it has nothing to do with whether they are rich or poor. There is a discomfort somewhere, and you don't know where it comes from.”

Jemly was born in a country where children are not encouraged to speak.

“When I got the chance, and I see it as a chance, to write, to have children read what I write, it is as if I am healing myself, from when I was child,” she says.

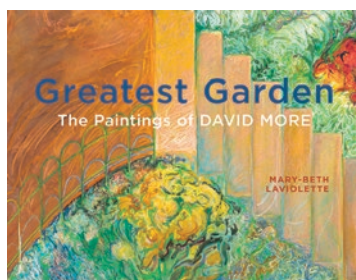
Jemly believes that if we explained things to children, we would avoid a lot of suffering.

“Children call me Tata Wanda. My role is to bring up topics to discuss, topics for which I do not always have answers. I try to make them think about a subject and, if we can, to discuss it with them.” 🌿



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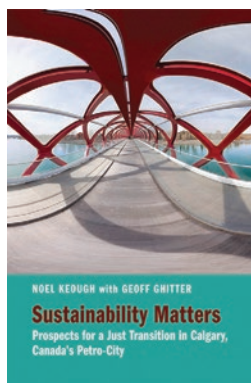
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## Des histoires de camionneur montrent comment Lafond a refait ses bases

*Le camion te donne beaucoup de temps pour penser, pour nourrir ton écriture*

par Lucien Chaput

### LE BOUTTE DE LA ROUTE

*Chroniques en dix-huit roues*

Yves Lafond

Éditions de la nouvelle plume

20,00 \$ papier, 228 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924237-50-2

Disponible en livre numérique



Yves Lafond

**L**e titre de ce premier livre par Yves Lafond est *Le boutte de la route : Chroniques en dix-huit roues*. Rien de surprenant donc d'apprendre que l'auteur roule en dix-huit roues sur la Dempster au Yukon depuis une bonne dizaine d'années!

« L'inspiration, en grande partie, c'est la Dempster, c'est là que je me suis ouvert à d'autres façons de penser », dit Lafond. « Pour être inspiré, il faut faire quelque chose. »

La vie de camionneur est bonne pour sa pratique d'écriture. « Pendant longtemps, je disais, voyons il faut que j'arrête, parce que j'arrive pas à écrire », dit l'écrivain originaire du Québec. « J'étais en affaires, mais être en affaires ça prend tout ton temps. Le camion, au contraire, ça te donne beaucoup de temps pour penser. »

Lafond a dû s'adapter à la culture du Nord. « Par exemple, au Québec, nous, on parle beaucoup avec nos mains. Mais ici, pour les Autochtones, les femmes surtout, tu ne fais pas ça. Elles disent : t'es en train de m'insulter. Mais quoi, je suis en train de te raconter une histoire. Tu me pointes du doigt, tu m'agresses, qu'elles disent. Alors là, il faut que je refasse mes bases », dit-il.

« Les Autochtones, eux autres qui sont ici depuis 10 000 ans, ils apprennent à ne pas combattre les éléments. La terre, c'est la Reine, tu sais, on combat pas ça, on fait avec. T'arrives là, pis il y a un avalanche

## Tales of trucking show how Lafond adjusted his ways, opened his mind

*Trucking gives 'a lot of time to think,' which feeds writing practice*

by Lucien Chaput

### LE BOUTTE DE LA ROUTE

*Chroniques en dix-huit roues*

Yves Lafond

Éditions de la nouvelle plume

\$20.00 pb, 228 pages

ISBN: 978-2-92423-50-2

Available as an ebook

**Y**ves Lafond's first book is titled *Le boutte de la route: Chronique en Dix-Huit Roues*. So it's not a surprise to learn that the author has been driving his eighteen-wheeler on the Yukon's Dempster Highway for a good 10 years!

"The inspiration, in large part, is the Dempster; that's where I opened up to other ways of thinking," says Lafond. "To be inspired, you have to do something."

The trucking life is good for his writing practice. "For a long time, I told myself, come on, I have to stop, because I can't seem to write," says the writer originally from Quebec. "I was in business, but being in business takes all your time. Trucking, on the contrary, gives you a lot of time to think."

Lafond had to adjust to the culture of the North. "For example, in Quebec, we talk a lot with our hands. But here, with the Indigenous people, especially women, you shouldn't do that. They say: you are insulting me. But what, I'm telling you a story. You point a finger at me, you are attacking me, they say. So there, I have to rethink my fundamentals," he says.

"The Indigenous Peoples, the people who have been here for over 10,000 years, have learned not to fight the elements.



qui bloque la route. Bien t'es pas en maudit contre la montagne. Bon qu'est-ce qu'on fait, comment on s'organise? Ça, les Autochtones, c'est leur manière de penser », il explique.

« Je suis maintenant dans un lieu où on risque sa vie à tous les jours, et tu ne sais pas à la fin de la journée comment les choses vont finir. Et pourtant, on dirait que le monde est plus serein, ce sont des personnes qui s'en font pas. »

Dans un parcours qui relie le pays des Gwich'in à celui des Tlingits, pourquoi écrire en français, étant donné que la langue de communication est l'anglais?

« En écrivant, il me vient des mots que j'utilisais quand j'étais petit gars », dit Lafond. « Ce sont des mots qu'on n'entend plus du tout et que j'adore. Ou des expressions, tu sais. Et ça, je ne suis pas capable de les rendre en anglais. »

Quel est le fil conducteur de ces chroniques en dix-huit roues? Lafond dit, « Grosso modo, comment je suis passé de la noirceur – on dit toujours ça – de la tristesse d'être à la joie à travers les rencontres avec des gens. Il faut accepter notre sort, et l'améliorer. »

## VIENNENT DE PARAÎTRE EN FRANÇAIS

### ALLUMETTES : POÈMES ENGAGEANTS, 2014–2018

Charles Leblanc

Comme un château construit d'allumettes, ces poèmes nous grattent et nous allument, nous réchauffent, nous enflamment. Charles Leblanc nous parle d'amour, de politique, d'amitié, de voyage et tout ce qui en découle. Like a castle built of wooden matches, these poems scratch us and light us, warm us and set us on fire. Charles Leblanc talks about love, politics, friendship, travels, and all the things that flow from them.

(Éditions du Blé, poésie, 17,95 \$ papier, 136 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-51-6)

### COMMENT ON A ÉCRIT CERTAINS DE MES LIVRES

J. R. Léveillé

Dans ce recueil de textes, entrevues et archives photographiques, J. R. Léveillé, un des auteurs les plus reconnus de l'Ouest canadien francophone, revient sur la genèse, les inspirations et l'évolution de son œuvre. In this collection of articles, interviews, and photographic archives, J. R. Léveillé, one of the most reputed francophone writers from Western Canada, explores the origins, inspirations, and evolution of his writings. (Éditions du Blé, essai, 19,95 \$ papier, 150 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-42-4)

### JE M'EN VAIS + DÉBÂCLE

Katrine Deniset

Ce livre réunit deux pièces de théâtre par une écrivaine d'une nouvelle génération.

Inspiré de la pièce classique de Roger Auger *Je m'en vais à Regina*, la jeune auteure traite de la transmission de la langue maternelle, de l'assimilation et de l'immigration. Two plays by a new author from a new generation are collected in this book. Inspired by the classic Franco-Manitoban play *Je m'en vais à Regina*, the playwright offers a new perspective on the transmission of a mother tongue, assimilation, and immigration. (Éditions du Blé, coll. Nouvelle Rouge, théâtre, 15,00 \$ papier, 100 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-45-5)

### PETITE DÉVIATION

Lise Gaboury-Diallo

Dans ce nouveau recueil, Lise Gaboury-Diallo nous offre avec maestria des contemplations, des réflexions introspectives et des confidences relationnelles. Ces poèmes ouvrent notre sensibilité aux fausses apparences, aux accommodements coupables et au passage du temps. In this new collection of poems, Lise Gaboury-Diallo offers contemplations, reflections, and confessions that make readers more aware of false appearances,

The land is the Mother, you know – we don't fight the land, we work with it. You get there, and there's an avalanche blocking the road. You're not going to curse the mountain. So what do we do, how do we organize ourselves? That is the Indigenous way of thinking," he explains.

"I am now in a place where you risk your life every day, and at the end of the day you do not know how things will end up. And yet, it seems that the people are more serene, the people don't worry about things."

In a journey that spans the land of the Gwich'in and the land of the Tlingit, why write in French, given that the language of communication is English?

"While writing, words that I used when I was a little boy come back to me," says Lafond. "They are words that we no longer hear at all and that I love. Or expressions, you know. And that, I am not able to render in English."

What is the common thread that binds these eighteen-wheeler chronicles? Lafond says, "Essentially, how I went from darkness – we always say that – from the sadness of being to joy through meeting people. We must accept our fate, and improve on it."

shameful compromises, and the passage of time.

(Éditions du Blé, poésie, 17,95 \$ papier, 120 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-48-6)

### LA PETITE FILLE D'OSOYOOS

Pearlene et Devon Clunis

Pearlene et Devon Clunis, qui ont publié *Le petit garçon qui venait de la Jamaïque*, se passionnent pour la diversité et l'inclusion. Les récits d'enfance de Pearlene présentés dans *La petite fille d'Osoyoos* constituent une suite logique à leur premier livre. *La petite fille d'Osoyoos*, Pearlene's story of growing up in the Osoyoos region of British Columbia, is the logical follow-up to the story of Devon Clunis growing up in Jamaica. The Winnipeg couple are passionate about diversity and inclusivity. (Éditions des Plaines, album jeunesse, 14,95 \$ papier, 24 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-832-8)

### TU M'APPARTIENS

Margot Joli

*Tu m'appartiens*, le deuxième titre de la série du Caporal Sylvain Trudel, met à nu deux grands thèmes : l'amour possessif et l'abus conjugal. *Tu m'appartiens*, the second book in the Corporal Sylvain Trudel series, explores two subjects: possessive love and marital abuse.

(Éditions de la nouvelle plume, roman policier, 20,00 \$ papier, 228 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-49-6)

# Dispatches

## *Insights from the executive director of Canada FBM2021*

by Gillian Fizet

In 2012, Caroline Fortin, a Quebec publisher and then-president of Livres Canada Books (the association tasked with supporting Canadian-owned book publishers' export sales activities), received an official document inviting Canada to be Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair (FBF).

Recognizing the opportunity this invitation presented for Canada's publishing sector, Fortin reached out to members from coast to coast to coast and, with their support and collaboration, in 2016 succeeded in championing the project to the Government of Canada. Canada FBM2020 was then established as an entity to manage, in French and English, the role and involvement of the Canadian book publishing industry as Guest of Honour at the 2020 edition of the FBF.

Our first goal for the project was to ensure that by 2020, 200 Canadian-authored and -illustrated titles would be translated into German. At the time of writing, over 300 translated books have been published or will be published in German by December 2021, thanks to several initiatives – including a fellowship of German publishers who travelled to Western Canada and met with Canadian publishers from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Over the course of the project, approximately 30 German editions of books by Canadian authors originally from or currently living in the Prairies were recently published, including books by David A. Robertson and Joshua Whitehead. Also worth noting is that since the beginning of the Guest of Honour project, several Prairie-based publishers sold translation rights to Canadian-authored and -illustrated books.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our plan to present Canadian authors and illustrators from across the country in Frankfurt in 2020 came to a crashing

halt. In July 2020, the federal government and the FBF announced that Canada's Guest of Honour year would be postponed to 2021.

Since this announcement, we have tirelessly navigated pandemic-related challenges and frequently adjusted our plans, always with great optimism that Canadian writers will have their moment on the international stage this October no matter what. As I write this, we are waiting for indications from public health authorities regarding a Canadian in-person presence at the FBF.

In the interim, we are fervently planning virtual literary content and have launched promotional campaigns targeted at German booksellers, media, and the reading public to inspire curiosity in our vibrant literary landscape and ultimately encourage sales of Canadian books in Germany.

One recent example is a magazine called *Singular Plurality – Singulier Pluriel*, which provides a full catalogue of the translated titles, as well as features written by Canadian authors and illustrators – including one titled “The Prairies from the View of Paul Seesequasis and Katherena Vermette,” offering their insights into their home region.

By the time this feature is published in *Prairie books NOW*, Canada will be concluding its Guest of Honour presentation. In the last year we have faced challenges no one could have predicted, but I'm confident that the Canadian publishing industry is leaving just as lasting an impression as we initially intended back in 2016.

As our Guest of Honour years come to a close, we are eager and excited to look back at this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity granted to our authors, illustrators, and industry, and to reap the opportunities created by this project, which we hope will last for years to come. 🌿

*Gillian Fizet is the executive director of Canada FBM2021, the entity responsible for representing the Canadian publishing industry's presence at Frankfurt Book Fair in 2021 where Canada will be the Guest of Honour. Prior to this, she was the international rights director for House of Anansi and Groundwood Books.*



***“Over the course of the project, approximately 30 German editions of books by Canadian authors originally from or currently living in the Prairies were recently published...” GILLIAN FIZET***



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du Canada



## ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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A former journalist for the Franco-Manitoban weekly *La Liberté*, **LUCIEN CHAPUT** is a freelance writer and editor based in Bélair, Manitoba. Ancien journaliste à l'hebdomadaire franco-manitobain *La Liberté*, **LUCIEN CHAPUT** est un pigiste en rédaction et en édition établi à Bélair (Manitoba).

**MARGARET ANNE FEHR** is a freelance writer and editor who moved from Winnipeg to Milton, Ontario, where she operates her writing practice, Effective Eloquence. Besides contributing to *Prairie books NOW*, Margaret Anne has written for Yellow Pages, NextHome publications, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Toronto Home*, and a variety of trade and membership magazines.

**MELANIE BRANNAGAN FREDERIKSEN** is a writer and critic living in Winnipeg. Her book reviews are published regularly in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and her poetry has most recently been published in *+doc*. She can be found on Instagram @shereadswinnipeg or on Twitter @shereadswpg.

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, photographer, and graphic designer based out of Saskatoon. In addition to being an established contributor to *Prairie books NOW*, he writes regularly for *Comic Book Resources*, *The Sportster*, *TripSided*, *Daily DDT*, and more.

**ARIEL GORDON's** latest book is *TreeTalk* (At Bay Press, 2020), nominated for three Manitoba Book Awards.

**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](http://www.wordspicturesmusic.com).

**RHONDA KRONYK** is a settler/Dene research, writing, and editing consultant who lives in amiskwaciwāskahikan on Treaty 6 lands. She is dedicated to increasing the inclusion of underrepresented communities in Canadian literature in both her editing and writing work. A founding member of the Indigenous Editors Association, she specializes in editing manuscripts by and about Indigenous Peoples.

**LAURA MCKAY** (she, her, hers) is a speculative fiction writer from rural Manitoba. She is the managing editor at Portage & Main Press/HighWater Press. Find her online at [writerlauramckay.ca](http://writerlauramckay.ca).

**KYLA NEUFELD** is a poet, writer, and editor who lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Treaty 1 Territory. She is currently taking an MA in cultural studies at the University of Winnipeg.

**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).

**AMANDA SANDERS** lives in Edmonton, Alberta, where she is a stay-at-home mom to her four-year-old son and six-year-old German shepherd.

**KAM TEO** is the executive director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA). While Kam is relatively new to the position, he is not new to the world of books – Kam is a lifelong bibliophile! He has also worked as a librarian at the Learning Resource Centre (a.k.a. library) at the RCMP Depot in Regina and as branch manager of the Weyburn Public Library.

**CHELSEY YOUNG** is a lover of books and is surrounded by them working with both the Winnipeg International Writers Festival and the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers. She is a musician and amateur chef, and enjoys a good cup of coffee.

## BOOKENDS

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

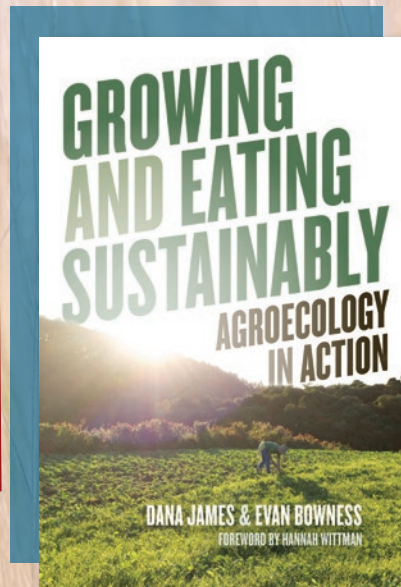
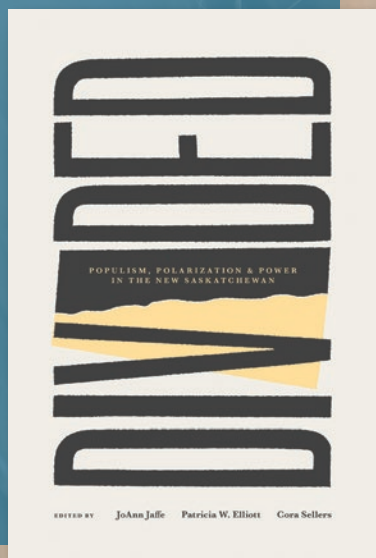
**On the Cover:** Digital artwork by Veronica Park made in 2020.

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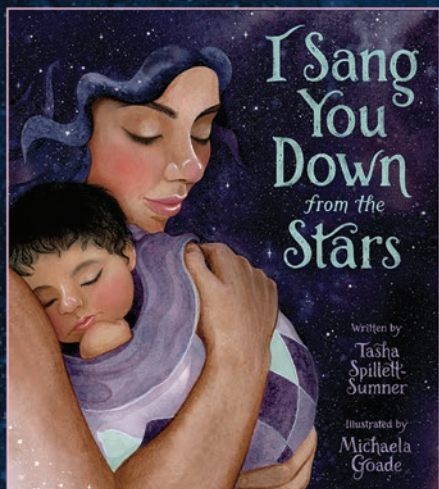
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— Shelf Awareness, *STARRED REVIEW*

★ BookPage

★ Kirkus Reviews

★ Publishers Weekly

★ School Library Journal

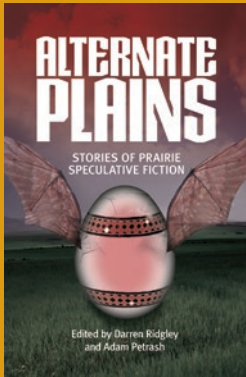
★ Shelf Awareness

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# Our Fall Books Offer Something for Everyone



## Alternate Plains

*Stories of Prairie Speculative Fiction*

Edited by Darren Ridgely & Adam Petrash

A man runs for his life from the promise of death held by trees; a lost VHS tape offers footage of a forgotten, grisly family history; a diaspora clings to magical shards of home and more in this collection of genre fiction by authors from across the Canadian Prairies.

*"I enjoyed this anthology from start to finish, although I have to admit it made me homesick."*  
—KATE HEARTFIELD, AUTHOR OF *ARMED IN HER FASHION*



## Lessons in Fusion

*A Novel*

Primrose Madayag Knazan

Sixteen-year-old Sarah (it's pronounced SAH-rah, thank you) has a successful blog creating fusion recipes. When she is invited to compete on Cyber Chef, a virtual cooking competition, her twists on her Baba's recipes are not enough to pique the palate of the show's producers. She is pushed to present dishes that represent her Filipinx culture, but these flavours are foreign to her since her parents raised her emphatically Jewish. To survive Cyber Chef and find her cultural identity, Sarah must discover why her mother turned her back on all things Filipinx, and learn the true meaning of fusion.

*"Lessons in Fusion ... is a timely and nuanced novel that delves into numerous issues around race and culture, especially the pressures faced by young people with blended heritage."*  
—QUILL & QUIRE



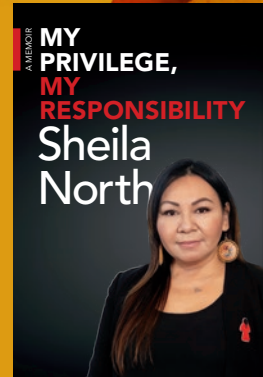
## Mosienko

*The Man Who Caught Lightning in a Bottle*

Ty Dilello

Bill Mosienko was one of Manitoba's greatest hockey players and athletes. Mosienko became a hockey legend in 1952 when he recorded the fastest hat-trick in NHL history—a record that stands to this day. This biography tells the story of a Manitoba legend, from his childhood spent skating on the rinks of Winnipeg's North End in the 1920s and 30s, to his illustrious fourteen-year NHL career, to his return to Winnipeg to play with the Winnipeg Warriors, to his post-retirement career as the owner of the iconic Mosienko Bowling Lanes.

*"Ty Dilello knows the history of Manitoba hockey players, so who better to tell us Mosienko's story?"*—ERIC ZWEIG, AUTHOR OF *ART ROSS: THE HOCKEY LEGEND WHO BUILT THE BRUINS*



## My Privilege, My Responsibility

*A Memoir*

Sheila North

Coming in January, 2022

In September 2015, Sheila North was declared the Grand Chief of Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak (MKO), the first woman elected to the position. Known as a "bridge builder", North is a member of Bunibonibee Cree Nation. North's work in advocacy journalism, communications, and economic development harnessed her passion for drawing focus to systemic racism faced by Indigenous women and girls. She is the creator of the widely used hashtag #MMIW. In her memoir, Sheila North shares the stories of the events that shaped her, and the violence that nearly stood in the way of her achieving her dreams. Through perseverance and resilience, she not only survived, she flourished.

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