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On the Cover: Artwork by Gabriel Ògúngbadé for *Leave My Bones in Saskatoon* by Michael Afenfia (page 8).

5 *Not the Apocalypse I Was Hoping For*



14 *Transcribing Moonlight*



20 *Resilience*

FICTION

- 5 *Not the Apocalypse I Was Hoping For* by Leslie Greentree
Leslie Greentree returns with well-crafted takes on politics, abortion, loneliness, and disaster: Alberta author turns back to shorter forms featuring fallible, difficult characters
- 6 *Stealing John Hancock* by H&A Christensen
Action-packed story revolves around identity theft, and one man's worst day ever: Mother-daughter writing duo move from film to fiction, hint at follow-up
- 7 *The Sleeping Car Porter* by Suzette Mayr
Black queer joy and 'deliberately hidden' history brought to life in playful, poetic style: Calgary professor fills in historical gaps with former porter's tales, her own memories
- 8 *Leave My Bones in Saskatoon* by Michael Afenfia
Novel set in Nigeria, Canada highlights untold stories of transnational migration: Saskatoon-based writer hopes to highlight bravery of people who resettle in new countries

POETRY

- 13 *Sixty-Seven Ontological Studies: 49 Poems & 18 Photographs* by Jan Zwicky and Robert Moody
Collaboration between photos and poems illuminates search for meaning, magic: Each poem, photo intended to speak for itself in collection from long-time friends
- 14 *Transcribing Moonlight* by Skylar Kay
Skylar Kay pairs marginalized topics with form traditionally used for travel journals: Seasons of life, journey as a trans woman related to moon phases in haibun collection

DRAMA

- 17 *How It Ends* by Debbie Patterson
Play moves from traditional to surreal settings, drawing audience in to consider mortality: Structure echoes Winnipeg playwright's research into what 'dying well' involves
- 18 *The War Being Waged* by Darla Contois
Tale follows 3 generations of Indigenous women's art, activism, survival 'through acts of love': Play by Cree-Saulteaux artist examines resistance to ongoing colonialism, impacts on family

COLOURING BOOK

- 20 *Resilience: Honouring the Children of Residential Schools* by Jackie Traverse
Colouring book paired with teachings can offer quiet time, healing, connection, and more: Traverse hopes her third book can open discussions into historical truths and the way forward

FEATURE: WHERE DO WE COME FROM? IDENTITY THROUGH GIFTS OF GRANDPARENTS

- 21 *Danceland Diary* by dee Hobsbawn-Smith
Strong-willed characters navigate multigenerational family dynamics, investigate disappearance: Protagonist Luka seeks to understand Hutterite ancestry, reconnect, and find answers



- 22 *The Secret of the Jade Bangle and The Power of the Pearl Earrings; The Nguyen Kids, Books 1 and 2* by Linda Trinh, illustrated by Clayton Nguyen
Debut chapter book series highlights Vietnamese culture, complexity of kids' experiences: Gifts, connection with ancestors guide Nguyen siblings as they face problems
- 23 *Ghosts in a Photograph: A Chronicle* by Myrna Kostash
Archival deep dive into Ukrainian family history considers settler narrative: Led by photographs and bolstered by research, but Myrna Kostash writes herself in as well
- 24 *The Treasure Box* by Judith Silverthorne
Time-travel adventure dives into ancestral history to explore migration, hardship: Middle-years novel balances current events of the present while reflecting on the past

NON-FICTION

- 25 *Until Further Notice: A Year in Pandemic Time* by Amy Kaler
Edmonton professor's essays an introspective addition to pandemic time capsule: Amy Kaler aimed to collect moments of experience, not 'authoritative history'
- 26 *Racism in Southern Alberta and Anti-Racist Activism for Change* edited by Caroline Hodes and Glenda Tibe Bonifacio
Anti-racist scholars and activists call for 'dramatic reinvention' of how we see ourselves, others: Local experiences linked to systemic racism for both scholarly, general audiences
- 27 *I Never Met a Rattlesnake I Didn't Like: A Memoir* by David Carpenter
Disillusioned with hunting, self-proclaimed 'wildlife nut' dives into predators: Carpenter indulges fascination with snakes and feral pigs in hopes of evoking love, vigilance
- 28 *Lives Lived, Lives Imagined: Landscapes of Resilience in the Works of Miriam Toews* by Sabrina Reed
Interviews, analysis explore themes such as resilience in Miriam Toews's work: Sabrina Reed's research intertwines literature with critical disability studies
- 30 *The Life Sentences of Rik McWhinney* by Rik McWhinney, edited by Jason Demers
Posthumous collection of writing, interviews an indictment of prison system: Editor hopes collection will serve to humanize 'people who tend to be reduced to a label'

PUBLISHER FEATURE

- 39 **Signature Editions**
Writer-centric publisher aims for passion, not prizes – though they've collected both: Signature Editions advocates for indie sellers, supports both new and established writers

YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN

- 41 *The U-nique Lou Fox* by Jodi Carmichael
Tale highlights importance of school, family supports for neurodivergent kids: Novel aims to be relatable to any kids who are struggling, fosters self-acceptance
- 42 *The Raven Mother* by Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson)
Tale of the raven offers Gitxsan teaching, perspective of interdependence: Author hopes to grow 'sense of awareness and concern for one's home' for readers of all ages

EN FRANÇAIS

- 46 *Una Huna? Qu'est-ce que c'est?* par Susan Aglukark, illustrations d'Amiel Sandland et de Danny Christopher
Traduction de Joël Marcon
Susan Aglukark shares stories of Inuit life and history with children: Singer-songwriter honours the childhood of her ancestors in picture book series // Partager avec les enfants des bribes d'histoires et du temps des Inuits : La chanteuse Susan Aglukark honore l'enfance de ses ancêtres
- 51 *Petites Nouvelles du Last Best West* par Pierrette Requier
Short pieces written in French with a slight English accent: Pierrette Requier captures the northern Alberta francophone past and dialect // De courts textes écrits en français avec un léger accent anglais : Pierrette Requier : capter le passé et le parler francophones du nord de l'Alberta

DISPATCHES

- 53 **Insights on audiobooks** by Cassie Smyth

Leslie Greentree returns with well-crafted takes on politics, abortion, loneliness, and disaster

Alberta author turns back to shorter forms featuring fallible, difficult characters

by Keith Cadieux

NOT THE APOCALYPSE I WAS HOPING FOR

Leslie Greentree

University of Calgary Press

\$24.99 pb, 190 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77385-369-7

Available as an ebook

I love short stories. I love reading them, I love writing them. I love that short fiction can focus on a moment, a single situation, or a brief period of time in a character's life," says Leslie Greentree about her return to the short form with her new story collection, *Not the Apocalypse I Was Hoping For*. Her writing career has spanned poetry, theatre, and non-fiction, as well as fiction – she even has a novel in the works – but the short story fulfills a special purpose.

"A short story can be left unresolved and still be deeply satisfying to the reader in a way that a novel left unresolved couldn't be," the author based in Red Deer, Alta., says. "Short fiction gives me the space to explore a range of unrelated ideas in the limited writing time that I have."

As her writing career progresses, Greentree finds herself taking some narrative and artistic risks. "The longer I write, the freer I feel to be playful in my writing," she says. "In this collection, that might come across in terms of the addition of Gothic elements to some of the stories, or the satirical bent to others, but also in terms of my willingness to take on more overtly political topics."

And the span of topics in the stories collected in *Not the Apocalypse I Was Hoping For* is impressive. The title story follows a self-fashioned action hero who stays behind in a town evacuated because of encroaching wildfires. The narrator skulks around the empty streets,

avoiding detection by rescue crews and police, all while becoming a minor social media celebrity as evacuated residents ask him to check on the things they've had to leave behind.

"The Room of Pickled Foods" sees a young boy at his grandfather's funeral. All the family members recall the grandfather's penchant for practical jokes, even when the result was more emotionally damaging than funny. And hoping to make a fitting tribute himself, the boy plays a small joke of his own with decidedly negative results.

The collection is bookended with the stories "Exit Interview #1" and "Exit Interview #2." The first is narrated by Camille, whose mother is dying of cancer but working feverishly on a performance art piece to debut after her death. The second story centres on a man whose experience of the piece leads him to new perspectives about other aspects of his life. These stories work well to encapsulate the shared ideas throughout the collection.

"There are recurring themes of death and loss, themes of artistic expression, themes of presentation of self, of the political and the personal, threaded through a variety of stories and voices. And through it all, flawed, flailing people," Greentree says.

Those fallible, often difficult characters are perhaps the most standout element of the collection as a whole. Greentree is drawn to creating such characters. "They're more interesting to create. It's a challenge, and a delight, to get into the heart of a flawed character and find their humanity, their relatability," she says.

Even with its heavy themes, the collection is not oppressively dark.

"There's more death in this book, because, unfortunately, the older we get, the more experience we have with death," Greentree adds, "but I think – I hope! – there's also a lot of fun in this book." 🌿



Leslie Greentree

STEPHANIE CRAIG PHOTOGRAPHY



Action-packed story revolves around identity theft, and one man's worst day ever

Mother-daughter writing duo move from film to fiction, hint at follow-up

by Ian Goodwillie

STEALING JOHN HANCOCK

H&A Christensen

Ravenstone-Turnstone Press

\$22.95 pb, 380 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-762-8

Everyone has bad days. However, John Hancock, the protagonist of *Stealing John Hancock* by H&A Christensen, has had the worst day of all time.

First, JP's girlfriend dumped him. As if that wouldn't be enough to ruin an entire week on its own, JP also found out that his brand-new acting gig was nothing more than a scam. But despite the odds, his day got even worse when he became the victim of an identity theft that led to the police chasing him for a crime he definitely did not commit. Fortunately, The Vindicator, a brilliant hacker, has her own reasons for clearing his name and comes to his aid.

Alie and Hejsa Christensen, a mother-daughter writing duo, have worked together for years in the world of film. Both writers have found the collaborative experience extremely positive, an experience Alie sums up quite well. "We found we complemented each other and, while we brought different skills to the combined effort, we were in sync on almost all character and plot dynamics. It was true synergy and very exciting."

JP's action-packed story represents their first foray into literature, and film rights to *Stealing John Hancock* have already been optioned. In addition, the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) is undertaking a same-day-as-print braille release, with a "how it's made" video about the braille translation process in the works.

According to Hejsa, the inspiration for this book came from a real-life problem both she and Alie couldn't believe was real. "The first spark for this story came from a newspaper article we read about a homeowner who

discovered the deed for his house had been fraudulently transferred and a huge mortgage taken out against his home without his knowledge," she says.

"The very idea of stealing a giant immovable object that is the greatest investment most of us could dream of having seemed absurd."

From there, the story of JP and his terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day was born. But that still meant that they needed to develop the hero of that story.

Hejsa describes JP as "a directionless young adult from a small town who has been striving in a haphazard way to make something of himself. He's dissatisfied with his mundane life, but doesn't know how to escape it."

Alie takes things a step further by clarifying why he is where he is in life. "As JP settles into adulthood, his past haunts him and his need to do something grand in life becomes more urgent in his mind and leads to a

recklessness that finds him in his current catastrophic predicament."

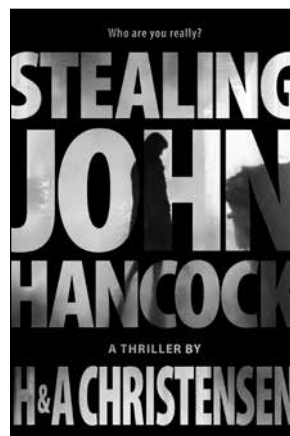
The two aren't finished with this world they've created, although Hejsa says that JP won't necessarily be part of the equation for a follow-up book. "While JP won't be in it, another character from *Stealing John Hancock* might make a cameo appearance."

But Hejsa also makes it clear that the team dynamic between mother and daughter won't be changing. "I'm fully aware of how lucky we are to be able to write together." 🌿



Alie and Hejsa Christensen

ASIA BUTTERFLY PHOTOGRAPHY



Black queer joy and ‘deliberately hidden’ history brought to life in playful, poetic style

Calgary professor fills in historical gaps with former porter’s tales, her own memories

by Bibi Ukonu

THE SLEEPING CAR PORTER

Suzette Mayr

Coach House Books

\$23.95 pb, 216 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55245-458-9

Available as ebook

Suzette Mayr’s latest novel, *The Sleeping Car Porter*, began with a challenge posed by one of her former writing teachers, the poet Fred Wah – he suggested she write about train porters. “I didn’t know what he was talking about, and I didn’t know what history he was referring to,” she says.



Suzette Mayr

Upon doing extensive research into sleeping-car porters – including reading a variety of articles and books, watching films, examining archival photographs, and speaking with historians – she learned that most Canadian sleeping-car porters were Black men, that being a porter was the best-paid job Black men could get, that they faced intense prejudice, and that they had a key role in labour

and civil rights in Canada. Even so, the full history of these men was not easy to find.

“They were not a group of people whose working lives would be closely recorded or considered important by traditional historians,” Mayr explains. “Porters in the old days tended not to talk a lot about their jobs with outsiders – they were invested in presenting a particular outward face, and with protecting each other.”

Mayr’s big research break came late in the process when she was put in contact with a former porter, who, she says, “was awesome because he shared a lot of really important details and anecdotes with me about his experience as a porter that I wouldn’t have been able to find anywhere else.”

The University of Calgary English professor also drew on annual train trips to the West Coast that her family took during Easter breaks throughout her childhood. “I loved those train rides, how the landscape gradually shifted from Alberta brown winter, to B.C. green spring; the gorges and mountains; the experience of sleeping in a seat or berth; the delicious food.”

Although she recalls no direct encounter with the porters, these experiences combined with research helped her create this story that takes place over a few days on a train heading from Montreal to Vancouver. Winnipeg and Vancouver were huge influences as they were historically major train stops. “I wanted this book to be more Western Canadian,” Mayr says.

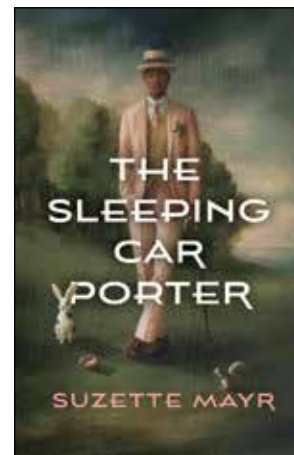
The novel follows Baxter, “a gay, Black man in the 1920s who works on a train during a time when queerness in Canada was punishable by prison or worse, and during a time of intense anti-Black racism.” Mayr uses fiction to fill in the gaps in the “patchy” historical record of these people, a history “that has been lost or deliberately hidden.”

She explains, “In order to understand myself as a Black, queer woman, I needed to ‘find’ those records to understand my place and who I am. My need to find an ancestor – to find Black, queer family – drove me to write this book.”

Mayr’s playful and poetic style of writing is perfect for the portrayal of Baxter, a character who, while facing difficult circumstances, is at all times hopeful.

“I am so not interested anymore in reading or writing yet another fiction about Black suffering or about queer people being lonely or punished because they’re queer,” the author says.

“This novel is firmly rooted in the notion of Black joy, of queer joy.” 🌿



Novel set in Nigeria, Canada highlights untold stories of transnational migration

Saskatoon-based writer hopes to highlight bravery of people who resettle in new countries

by Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

LEAVE MY BONES IN SASKATOON

Michael Afenfia

Griots Lounge Publishing

\$22.99 pb, 260 pages

ISBN: 978-1-7776884-7-9

Every year, many Africans leave behind strong ties forged since birth to explore new connections in Canada. Some realize their dreams of stability and prosperity; others fail and yield to despair. Saskatoon-based Nigerian writer Michael Afenfia is familiar with the challenges many immigrants deal with in North America, having emigrated from Nigeria to Canada in 2019. His latest and sixth novel, *Leave My Bones in Saskatoon*, is about Africans pursuing the Canadian dream.

Afenfia had already established himself as a notable and prolific writer in Nigeria. He served as the chair of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) in Bayelsa, his home state, and published five books there. He currently works as a diversity, settlement, and inclusion practitioner and is actively involved in the Saskatoon literary scene. He recognizes the value of literature.

“Writing serves the dual purpose of enlightening and entertaining,” Afenfia remarks. “There is always a message in everything we write; even when we do not think about it, it is there, and our readers find it. Even when we say it is art for art’s sake, the reader finds something, and they hold on to it.”

Unlike his previous stories set in Nigeria, *Leave My Bones in Saskatoon* shuttles between Nigeria and Canada to reveal the transnational lives of African migrants. There are stories no one tells people who decide to relocate to a new country. No one told Afenfia that life

would not be rosy across the Atlantic when he decided to leave his home country.

Yet he admits that it takes great courage to resettle in another country, and the possibilities of success are there. This fact and other reasons inspired him to write this book because he hopes it “will speak to and for all the brave men and women who come to this country every day and who are either too ashamed or afraid to tell their stories or share their experiences.”

The novel opens with Owoicho Adakole, a TV presenter, who has finalized plans with his wife to leave Nigeria with their four children. For the Adakoles, this is a dream come true, a dream sought by many Nigerians eager to flee the ruthless politics in the country. Yet, in the moment of joy, his family suffers a tragedy that puts their relocation on pause. Meanwhile, in faraway Saskatoon, Oroma still hurts from heartbreak, wary of finding love again after her boyfriend exploited her and abandoned her for another woman.

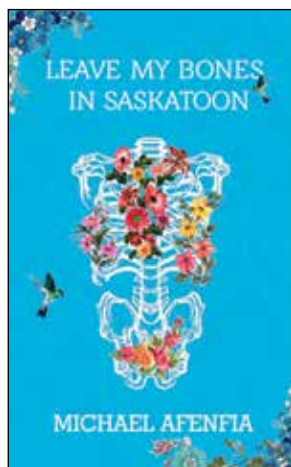
Afenfia presents these lives in spare, unaffected, and brisk prose, capturing moments of human fragility, duplicity, betrayal, avarice, and fraud. But there is love in the stories he narrates – love and its redemptive potential. Indeed, he has written a powerful, if harrowing, story of human resilience and healing amid tragedy.

Afenfia is excited about his next project, a collection of short stories. The book, his first foray into this genre, will further explore the struggles of Nigerians at home and in Canada.

“I put my heart and soul into anything I write,” Afenfia says, “and I take writing as a very important task.” 🌿



Michael Afenfia



MORE FICTION

GRAPHIC NOVEL

FIVE STALKS OF GRAIN

Adrian Lysenko, illustrated by Ivanka Theodosia Galadza
This powerful and haunting graphic novel, illustrated in a style drawing on Ukrainian artistic traditions, tells a story of two siblings, Nadia and Taras, and how they survive the loss of their family and home during the Holodomor, the terror-famine that claimed millions of lives in Soviet Ukraine.
(University of Calgary Press, \$24.99 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-375-8, available as ebook)

SHORT FICTION

GOD ISN'T HERE TODAY

Francine Cunningham
Ranging from the very short to novella-length, the dark, often funny, and always engaging stories in this debut collection display a virtuosity and confidence with form as well as great insight into character, whether those characters be young or old, searching for home or escape, of this world or the next.
(Invisible Publishing, \$20.95 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9887824-90-8, available as ebook)

SHAPERS OF WORLDS, VOLUME III

Edited by Edward Willett
This third anthology of science fiction and fantasy by authors who were guests of *The Worldshapers* podcast features stories by such writers as Gerald Brandt, Cory Doctorow, Robert Penner, and Kristi Charish, along with six poems by Jane Yolen.
(Shadowpaw Press, 540 pages, \$39.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-989398-43-2; \$29.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-989398-41-8; available as ebook)

SOMETHING'S BURNING

Janet Trull
These stories examine social change and tension between generations, sexes, races, and neighbours. Is it the end of misogyny or the end of men? Is it the end of social injustice or the end of loyalty? Whether oblivious to, committed to, or working against new ideas, the characters are believable and engaging.
(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 276 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-68-5)

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Kasia Van Schaik
Often looking back on moments of intimacy and transformation, Charlotte, the narrator of these 20 linked short stories, comes to profound insights about creativity, friendship, disappointment, and desire. Each story is a gem, and together they form a complex debut collection.
(University of Alberta Press, \$24.99 pb, 180 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-628-0, available as ebook)

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Chadwick Ginther
Expanding on the Thunder Road trilogy, this collection of short stories, some previously published and some new, sees Ted Callan's world explode with gods, monsters, giants, witches, and more.
(Ravenstone-Turnstone Press, \$21.00 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-765-9)

NOVELS

ALL THE WORLD'S A WONDER

Melia McClure
This innovative novel explores the cost of creating art, the

persistence of love, and the power of storytelling. A playwright with a split personality surrenders to her muse, an actress from the 1920s, and meets with her psychiatrist, who is suffering from heartache and will be healed by their interaction as much as he helps her heal.
(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-98927-479-8)

BELIEVERS AND HUSTLERS

Sylva Nze Ifedigbo
This novel is an exposé of the underbelly of Nigeria's Pentecostal fervor and the lives of rich celebrity preachers – their motivations, rivalries, pretenses, and fears. Lagos mega-church pastor Nicholas Adejwon's past is being uncovered – by none other than his wife Nkechi, with

help from Ifenna, a young journalist turned blogger.
(Griots Lounge, \$24.99 pb, 324 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7776884-8-6)

BOMBING THE MOON

Nancy Chislett
Exploring a family in crisis and the promises and limitations of tough love, this debut novel follows 24-year-old Devin, who wants to be a songwriter and whose grandfather ships him off to Nairobi in the hopes that he will grow up; his parents, Cole and Julia, who are frantic when they don't hear from Devin; and Lily, Devin's younger sister, who is on her own downward spiral.
(Now or Never Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 294 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989689-31-8)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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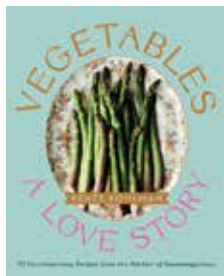
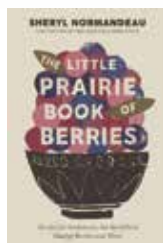


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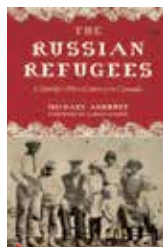
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BRIEF LIFE**Kevin Marc Fournier**

Fournier returns to the characters of his award-winning novel *The Green-Eyed Queen of Suicide City* to tell the story of a difficult but lifelong friendship; the bizarre history of a small town; and a multi-generational family saga with ghosts, visitations, magic, and mysterious disappearances.

(Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains, \$22.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-081-1)

COMPASS**Murray Lee**

Narrated by a man whose career telling stories about historic expeditions and explorers is called into question, this comedic novel follows him as he attempts his very own honest adventure in the Arctic, which goes very wrong and takes him to the physical and psychological edge of his world.

(Publerati, \$22.65 pb, 342 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7350273-8-8, available as ebook)

DUATERO**Brad C. Anderson**

Majstro Falchilo Kredo has devoted his life to protecting the abandoned Earth colony of Duatero from Malamiko, the ecosystem whose contamination turns humans into mindless monsters. The ancient technology that Kredo and his fellow soldiers use to combat Malamiko is failing, and Malamiko is becoming more dangerous – Kredo must risk everything or lose all he holds precious.

(Shadowpaw Press, \$23.95 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-39-5, available as ebook)

THE ELEPHANT ON KARLŮV BRIDGE**Thomas Trofimuk**

Set in Prague, and narrated by a 600-year-old bridge, this fascinating novel tells the story of a five-ton elephant who escapes from the Prague Zoo and moves through the city, encountering and altering the lives of people who are wrestling with profound questions – how to live, how to love, how to heal. Sál herself carries her

share of sadness and pain as she struggles to find her way.

(Thistledown Press, \$24.95 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-225-6)

**FIVE MOVES OF DOOM, A
“HAMMERHEAD” JED MYSTERY****A. J. Devlin**

In his third case, “Hammerhead” Jed, a banana-shake-loving pro wrestler who has joined his father’s PI agency, is hired to find a stolen UFC Championship belt. He questions jewel thieves, bodybuilders, and eccentric yoga enthusiasts, and eventually infiltrates an exclusive no-holds-barred fight club – Jed is not afraid to get physical, but this might be pushing him to his limit.

(NeWest Press, \$22.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-055-9, available as ebook)

GOING TO BEAUTIFUL**Anthony Bidulka**

Celebrity chef Jake Hardy has it all, but his perfect life comes apart when his husband, Eddie, falls to his death from their balcony. That tragic event leads Jake and his friend Baz on a journey to Beautiful, an almost-ghost town in Saskatchewan, where they look into Eddie’s past and find so much more than they expected.

(Stonehouse Publishing, \$22.00 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988754-35-2)

THE GREAT FORGETTING**Susan Huebert**

Set in a time after the Great Forgetting, when almost all human knowledge was lost, this novel tells how Maria, who works in a surviving library that somehow operates under the radar, and her colleague Elizabeth set out to discover what caused the loss and to restore people’s memories and make life worth living again.

(Tellwell Talent, \$17.00 pb, 324 pages, ISBN: 978-0-2288-5697-9, available as ebook)

THE LEGEND OF SARAH**Leslie Gadallah**

This new edition of the classic science fiction novel follows 14-year-old Sarah, an accomplished pickpocket who knows the back streets and danger zones of the town of Monn, and who lives to listen to

the storyteller’s tales of the lives of the Old People. When she picks the wrong pocket, however, she ends up embroiled with an agent of the devil in search of the Old People’s secrets.

(Shadowpaw Press, \$24.99 pb, 380 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-49-4, available as ebook)

THE LOST CENTURY**Larissa Lai**

The latest novel from Lambda Award-winning Lai is an epic yet intimate story exploring Asian queer history, underground resistance, and the violence of war. From her great-aunt Violet, Ophelia learns the story of her grandmother Emily, who married her father’s mortal enemy and who had to be rescued from him during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during the Second World War.

(Arsenal Pulp Press, \$22.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-897-7, available as ebook)

THE LOYAL DAUGHTER**Nancy Lam**

The “loyal daughter” is Mai Gum Chung, whose determination, hard work, and sacrifice see her make her way from Communist China in the 1940s to Ontario, where in 1966, she marries Ming and proceeds to establish her family – her mother, grandmother, siblings, and her own four children – in Toronto. This debut novel is a marvellous portrayal of true resilience.

(At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-65-4)

MÀGÒDIZ**Gabe Calderón**

This novel of Indigenous futurism features Two-Spirit, LGBTQ+, BIPOC, neurodivergent, and disabled characters who have survived a devastating war and are fighting to save what’s left of their world. In a world scorched by war, survivors lack the knowledge and tools to rebuild. Six people collide and find out who is friend and who is foe, and reclaim the sacredness of the gifts they carry.

(Arsenal Pulp Press, \$22.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55152-899-1, available as ebook)

MURDER AT SAN MIGUEL

Danee Wilson

Archaeological illustrator Beatrix Forster and her husband, Bill, a retired archaeology professor, lead a group of university students on an expedition to excavate the cemetery at San Miguel in northern Spain. When one of the students is brutally murdered, the local Civil Guard bungles the investigation, and Beatrix and Bill try to determine the identity of the killer themselves.

(Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-98927-476-7)

NINE DASH LINE

Emily Saso

Inspired by real but re-imagined events in the late 1980s, this thrilling novel is about U.S. Navy intelligence officer Jess, who, while assigned on a top-secret mission, is washed ashore on Mischief Reef, where Zi Shan, who has been exiled from Communist China, is working at turning the reef into an island. How will these two receive absolution for their past actions, and how will they ever get home?

(Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 260 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-15-6)

PAWNS AND PHANTOMS, AN EVERLAND MYSTERY

Misha Handman

Todd Malcolm is a bouncer and part-time detective's assistant in 1950s Everland, an island of industry, fading magic, and political and corporate greed. Todd gets mixed up in an arson case, and with the help of his friend Glimmer the fairy and detective Vance Carson, he has to contend with federal agents, singing tigers, murderous mermaids, and more.

(EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-210-6, available as ebook)

THE ROSETTA MIND, BOOK TWO, ROSETTA SERIES

Clair McCague

Estlin Hume, hired as an official translator to facilitate communication between humans and first-contact aliens, wakes up alone near the small town of Twin Butte, Alberta, surrounded by aliens, affectionate squirrels, government representatives, and

military personnel – with a huge tank of cuttlefish suspended above his house! (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 212 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-213-7, available as ebook)

RUBY RED SKIES

Taslim Burkowicz

Alternating between the contemporary story of Ruby, a middle-aged Indo-Canadian woman unhappy in her marriage, and the historical story of a fearless dancer named Rubina, who lived in the concubine quarters of the Agra Fort during the Mughal Dynasty, this novel navigates themes of mixed-race relationships, climate change, body shame, and the passage of time.

(Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$24.00 pb, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-177363-560-6, available as ebook)

A SEVEN YEAR ACHE

Fisher Lavell

In this historical novel, Rosie moves to Manitoba with her mother, stepfather, and siblings to homestead in the 1920s, but things do not go well – the family suffers loss, poverty, and upheaval, and Rosie, despite her spirited nature – or maybe because of it – has a rough time pursuing her dreams against the harsh and limiting landscape of her time.

(FriesenPress, 272 pages, \$46.50 hc, ISBN: 978-1-039-13252-8, \$30.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-03-913251-1; available as ebook)

THE TASTE OF HUNGER

Barbara Joan Scott

An intense exploration of thwarted desire, this historical novel follows Ukrainian immigrants settling in rural Saskatchewan in the 1920s and '30s. Fifteen-year-old Olena marries Taras against her wishes, and her simmering bitterness and anger result in a moment that changes everything.

(Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-18-7)

THE THEORY OF CROWS

David A. Robertson

Matthew and his teenaged daughter Holly are growing farther and farther apart – he feels empty and unable to connect with

those he loves, and she wants him to pay attention to her like he used to. After a profound loss, the two set out to find the family trapline, making some dangerous missteps along the way, but ultimately discovering the gifts of the land.

(HarperCollins Canada, \$24.99 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-6516-8, available as ebook and audiobook)

THERE ARE WOLVES HERE TOO

Niall Howell

Blending coming-of-age with noir and horror elements, this novel follows Robin and his friends Dylan and Steph during the summer of 1997, their first as teenagers. When six-year-old Catherine disappears from their neighbourhood, Robin wonders if the blood they accidentally spilled in the ravine may have released dark forces.

(NeWest Press, \$22.95 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-059-7, available as ebook)

THICKWOOD

Gayle M. Smith

In Saskatchewan's Thickwood Hills, Willo Swift, home from playing professional baseball, finds her hopes for raising a herd of carefully bred horses dashed when her most promising stud colt is killed by a rogue stallion. The owner of the stallion was once her baseball coach, but she is quickly losing any feelings of loyalty toward him as his, as well as his stallion's, actions threaten her livelihood.

(Shadowpaw Press, \$24.99 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-34-0, available as ebook and audiobook)

THIS HOUSE IS NOT A HOME

Katija

This gripping intergenerational story combines fictional characters with historical events, exploring a time when settlers dispossessed Indigenous Peoples of their homes in the North. A family returns from a hunting trip one fall to find an empty space where their home was, and a Dene man, who grew up on the land until being taken to residential school, struggles to connect with his family.

(Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$24.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-562-0, available as ebook)

Collaboration between photos and poems illuminates search for meaning, magic

Each poem, photo intended to speak for itself in collection from long-time friends

by Kyla Neufeld

SIXTY-SEVEN ONTOLOGICAL STUDIES:

49 Poems & 18 Photographs

Jan Zwicky and Robert Moody

Freehand Books

\$24.95 pb, 80 pages

ISBN: 978-1-990601-09-5

Poems and photographs play off of each other to shed light on human existence in *Sixty-Seven Ontological Studies: 49 Poems & 18 Photographs* by long-time friends Jan Zwicky and Robert Moody.



Jan Zwicky



Robert Moody

Zwicky and Moody met in the 1980s. They first collaborated when they paired Moody's photographs of Spanish sculptor Josep Maria Subirachs's *Passion Façade* with Zwicky's English free-verse versions of sonnets from Italian Renaissance poet Vittoria Colonna's *Rime Spirituali*. In 2020, Barbarian Press published *Fifty-Six Ontological Studies*, a shorter limited edition of this new collection.

Both Zwicky and Moody seek to explore reality in their respective mediums.

"The word *ontology* comes from the Greek word *onta*, which means 'the things that actually exist; reality, truth,'" says Zwicky, who lives on Quadra Island just off the coast of B.C. "In composing the poems, I was attempting to pay attention to reality, and it seems to me that this is very much what Robert achieves with his

photographs: attention to reality."

Moody, who divides his time between Pasadena, Calif., and Victoria, B.C., further explains the thinking behind the collection. "There was never any intention that poems and photographs would be representations of each other.

To our minds, the poems and the photographs are separate entities. Each poem and each photograph is an ontological study in its own right and speaks for itself."

These photographs and poems both capture the essence of the objects, feelings, places, and moments that make up human experiences.

Moody's attention to the contrast between light and shadow, together with Zwicky's prevalent themes of nature, illuminate humanity's constant search to find meaning.

"In some sense, one can say that photography is all about light. The beauty of a good black-and-white print is the wonderful gradation of texture and tone that light and shadow can express. And those rare moments when light, form, and texture are all alive can be quite magical," says Moody.

Zwicky says, "Human beings, like other animals, are aspects of the natural world. This is inescapable. And the structures of the natural world have formed human intelligence, just as they have formed other species of intelligence on this planet. Those structures, then, are one of the deepest sources of meaning."

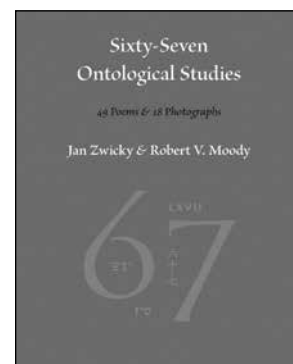
For Zwicky, nature has been a source of inspiration since she first started writing.

"I was amazed, when I rediscovered [my first published poems] a few years ago, to see that my themes hadn't changed," she says. One poem published when she was 15 was about the environmental devastation of the planet.

Together, the poems and photographs create spaces for readers to pause and absorb the images on the page.

"Personally I am very attracted to the idea of photographs alongside text," says Moody. "I like the way these pairings make you stop.

"It is really best when the text and image are evidently sympathetic, but there is no obvious connection, for it is then that you have the freedom to be creative, to dream a little, and perhaps to find depths that are entirely personal. That is certainly my hope for the book." 🌿



Skylar Kay pairs marginalized topics with form traditionally used for travel journals

Seasons of life, journey as a trans woman related to moon phases in haibun collection

by Ariel Gordon

TRANSCRIBING MOONLIGHT

Skylar Kay

Frontenac House

\$19.95 pb, 72 pages

ISBN: 978-1-989466-34-6

Available as an ebook

Relating transitions in her life to the phases of the moon was the challenge trans poet Skylar Kay set herself in her debut poetry collection, the haibun journal *Transcribing Moonlight*.

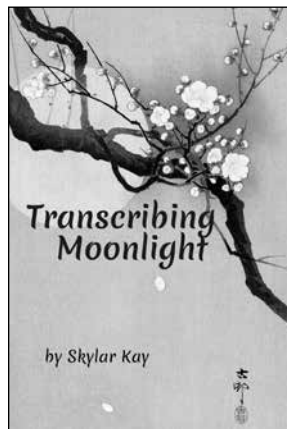
“The moon shifts subtly – imperceptible changes on a nightly basis,” says the Calgary-bred but currently Windsor-based writer. “Even large events – graduations, promotions, falling in love, falling out of love – rarely happen in just a day, but are an accumulation of smaller shifts, the waxing and waning of a lifetime.”

Haibun are a common Japanese literary form for travel journals, but Kay was able to adapt them to her journey as a trans woman.

“While I ventured through mental and physical transitions rather than through landscape, a journey is a journey nonetheless,” says Kay. “Even in Bashō’s famous travelogues, journey is allegorical at times: the author progresses through life, aging, and accepts death – farmers till fields, morning glories fade in the capital’s daylight, northern fields fill with frost.

“By subverting haibun expectations, I introduce marginalized topics – gender dysphoria, hormone replacement therapy, navigating sexuality – to a traditional form. Seasons change, lunar cycles wax and wane, and I accept the transitions in my own life.”

As she worked on *Transcribing Moonlight*, Skylar was inspired by traditional haibun like Bashō’s travelogues and Issa’s *The Spring of My Life*, but also contemporary



texts like Terry Ann Carter’s *Tokaido* and Bruce Ross’s *Journey to the Interior*.

“I’ll never forget the first time I read Momoko Tsuji’s haiku ‘short summer night – / the sex change operation / also completed’ and thinking to myself, ‘Holy cow, you can do that!’” says Kay. “It was kind of liberating and empowering to see a poem on that topic in a haiku anthology.”

Kay and her editor Micheline Maylor had known each other for years, starting in a creative writing class at Mount Royal University.

“Sometimes, a student comes to class, and there’s a certain something about them,” says Maylor. “Skylar had the thing. I like a student who is hard working, but also one that is a bit rebellious. Sky stood out for her incredible sense of humour and sharp dry wit, but also for her dedication to the form of haiku and haibun.”

It seemed natural that Kay would bring her first manuscript to Maylor and Calgary-based press Frontenac House, but she initially found editing difficult.

“I remember breaking down crying the first time we were editing my manuscript because it was all just so overwhelming,” Kay says. “Not only to know that I needed to do a lot of fine tuning on work that was already very personal, but also because I knew I’d have to wear my heart outside my body and expose it for people to see.”

Now that *Transcribing Moonlight* is out in the world, Kay is back to learning the flora and fauna of her new home – a “weird kind of hybrid Canada/America place” – which is vital to writers of haiku and haibun.

She says, “A lot of my writing these days kind of explores how this liminal/hybrid nature of Windsor reflects my own experience as a trans woman – certainly a project I could not undertake back in Calgary.”



Skylar Kay

MORE POETRY

BEING HERE: THE CHEMISTRY OF STARTLE

Barry Dempster

Maybe people “mistake naming for knowing,” but the naming in this collection – of places like Rio and Taiji Cove, Japan, of creatures such as pigeons and polar bears, of objects like cutlery and Frisbees – shows a profound and personal knowledge and insight from an accomplished and adventurous poet. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-33-9, available as ebook)

THE BIG MELT

Emily Riddle

This debut poetry collection by a nehiyaw writer, editor, policy analyst, language learner, and visual artist explores Treaty relationships, personal relationships – family/ancestors and romantic – and relationships with the land, both historically and in a contemporary urban setting, with boldness, humour, and care. (Nightwood Editions, \$19.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-436-6)

BLUE MOON: THE ONO NO KOMACHI POEMS

Terry Ann Carter and Heather MacDonald
Poet Carter and visual artist MacDonald have collaborated to create a stunning book. Carter’s poems are a tanka sequence in the voice of Ono no Komachi, a tanka poet from the 800s, which are deepened in effect and meaning by MacDonald’s elegant Japanese brush work and book design, and by exquisite collages made by the poet and artist together. (JackPine Press, \$30.00 pb, 36 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927035-42-9)

DREAMS AND JOURNEYS

Frederick R. McDonald

The award-winning painter, poet, and photographer examines the complexity of his life as a member of the Fort McKay First Nation who experiences the glory and beauty of his culture, but who also navigates the unjust and destructive mainstream Canadian culture. (Harbour Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-0-99077-604-5)

EMPTYING THE OCEAN

Kim Fahner

Organized around the four elements of water, earth, fire, and air, these haunting and sensuous poems explore desire, art, beauty, and wildness in images of seashores, storms, and lighthouses, seeds, bees, and hair. Two additional sections reimagine the lives of women in ancient mythology, in the art world, and in literature, and revisit images and themes of conjuring, hope, longing, and song. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-45-2, available as ebook)

THE END IS IN THE MIDDLE:

MAD FOLD-IN POEMS

Daniel Scott Tysdal

In this innovative collection, Tysdal takes inspiration from Al Haffee’s illustrated fold-ins in *MAD* magazine to explore living with mental illness through a new kind of poetry – the fold-in poem, where readers are invited to complete the poem by folding the page to reveal the final line. (Icehouse Poetry-Goose Lane Editions, \$19.95 pb, 114 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773102-71-9)

FINGER TO FINGER

Keith Garebian

This collection reveals a life of love, language, travel, and aging, with precision and honesty, in all its complexity: “Various things true at once.” The speaker explores and treasures intimate relationships without flinching from his own missteps. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-35-3, available as ebook)

A GRIEF CAVE: THIRTY POEMS AND AN ESSAY

Ben Gallagher

Almost a decade ago, the author’s partner Zoë was late returning home from her run – these poems were written in the years following the accident that killed her as the speaker makes his way through the immediate aftermath, loves another partner, and creates a new life, all while keeping space for the grief and love he continues to feel for Zoë. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-40-7, available as ebook)

HEART’S HYDROGRAPHY

Sally Ito

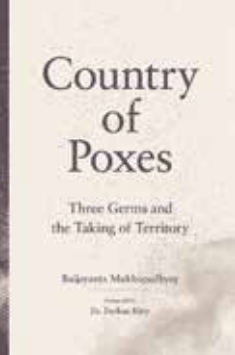
Whether exploring motherhood or finding God in nature and inspiration in a 17th-century devotional poet, whether playing with the style of canonical poetry or struggling with the language of liturgical texts, Ito searches for faith and a way to believe. (Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-759-8)

THE HISTORY FOREST

Michael Trussler

These evocative poems and essay grapple with the wonder and the suffering, the beauty and the violence, of the current world, and explore concerns and questions about the future world. The speaker’s personal experiences with anxiety and loss are contrasted with a deep appreciation of nature and art. (University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-894-8, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16




“This book is an important contribution to our understanding that disease is as political as it is biological. In a highly accessible way, Dr. Mukhopadhyay threads three of our most dreaded diseases into the story of Canada’s development as a settler-colonial state. A thoughtful study of fearsome infections and the human forces that shaped them, *Country of Poxes* is a great book and a valuable tool to make sense of our own troubled times.”

— James Daschuk, author of *Clearing the Plains*

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HOW TO HOLD A PEBBLE

Jaspreet Singh

To learn again how to hold a pebble, how to negotiate human and non-human relationships, how to live one's life in the Anthropocene – these are some of the concerns of this collection of poems that address everyday objects and global interactions, that explore memory, language, climate change, and colonization. (NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-053-5, available as ebook)

LISAN AL'ASFOUR

Natalie Hanna

Beginning and ending with invocations for softness and strength, *lisan al'asfour* (the bird's tongue) delves into Hanna's heritage as the child of a woman compelled to immigrate from Egypt in the 1970s. The poems examine racism, loss of culture, and working in the field of law; they mourn the violence in the world; and they describe the schism between defining and maintaining identity. (ARP Books, \$18.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-66-3, available as ebook)

LITTLE WET-PAINT GIRL

Ouanessa Younsi, translated

by Rebecca L. Thompson

First published in French, this unsettling look at identity and ethnicity by a poet born to a French-Canadian mother and Algerian father takes readers on a surreal journey through a world where concepts of belonging and unbelonging, absence and presence, and mind and body are questioned and blurred. (Athabasca University Press, \$21.99 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77829-006-0, available as ebook)

LOVE HURRIES THIS

Hamish Guthrie

In precise details, Guthrie portrays people, wildlife, responses to art, moments from childhood and travels, small town life, and lessons learned from a career as a teacher – Guthrie demonstrates a fine touch in this debut collection of poetry. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988168-67-8)

OPENWORK AND LIMESTONE

Frances Boyle

Boyle mines memories, family stories, travel, books, art, and keen observations to form a collection of beautifully descriptive lyric poems, vividly evoking the senses – sound, scent, colour, texture, touch – conjuring landscapes of seashores, lakes, and other geological formations, as well as daily activities such as hanging laundry and cooking fish. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-43-8, available as ebook)

PILGRIM TO NO COUNTRY

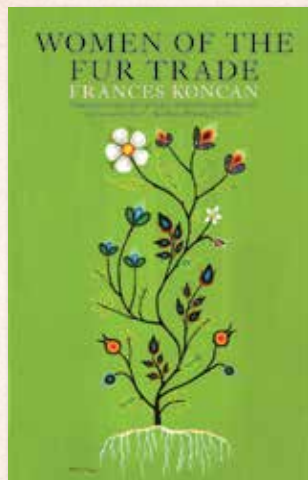
Anvesh Jain

This debut collection explores the immigrant experience and the making of home from the perspective of someone who came to Calgary from India at the age of one. Jain combines Indian and mainstream Canadian cultures with a sense of play, of the mythic, and of the everyday. (Frontenac House, \$19.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989466-36-0, available as ebook)

EXCITING NEW THEATRE FROM THE PRAIRIES

A daughter returns to the family farm, and everything changes.

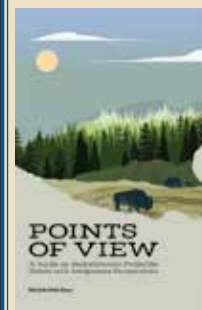
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Play moves from traditional to surreal settings, drawing audience in to consider mortality

Structure echoes Winnipeg playwright's research into what 'dying well' involves

by Luis Reis

HOW IT ENDS

Debbie Patterson

Playwrights Canada

\$18.95 pb, 72 pages

ISBN: 978-0-36910-400-7

Winnipeg-based actor, director, and playwright Debbie Patterson's play *How It Ends* explores end-of-life choices and the legalization of medical assistance in dying. "It's the thing we all want to know but don't want to know: the circumstances under which we will die," she says.

"With this play, I really wanted to help the audience begin to contemplate their own deaths. I really believe there's a lot of growth and transformation possible through the contemplation of one's own mortality. It seems a shame to wait until the 11th hour to begin that growth and transformation."

That audience contemplation was one of the major challenges.

"We had to make it safe, appealing even," says Patterson.

She solved that problem through the structure of the play, which begins in a traditional manner with two characters having a conversation on a boat, and goes on to become a somewhat surrealistic journey with three extraordinary settings.

"I wanted to begin with the ordered formality of a proscenium theatre. It's familiar, it's safe, it's comfortable. The audience can be anonymous; they know what to expect," says Patterson.

The promenade-style journey that follows is still controlled – all the audience has to do is follow the leader. In the cloud setting, anonymity disappears and audience members become active participants.

"But there's still separation between the audience and the performers," says Patterson. "In the final setting,

there is no distinction between the performers and the audience. We are all mixed in together. We are one."

This structure had a very deliberate purpose. "Through my research I discovered that one of the big challenges of dying well is learning to surrender control," Patterson says. "I wanted to give the audience that feeling of moving from the formal ordered setting to a much less defined, amorphous configuration."

"Some people say we go to theatre to rehearse the hard things we're going to face in life. So, this journey through the four states was an opportunity to rehearse losing control without feeling lost."

Patterson's research included interviews and a lot of reading.

"One of the most profound things I read in my research was 'All life depends on the death of other beings. What is waiting for you to die in order to grow?'"

"While on the surface this can seem a bit threatening, once we accept that death is inevitable, this idea provides a kind of comfort. It's an affirmation that there is value, purpose, and meaning in every moment of our existence, including our deaths."

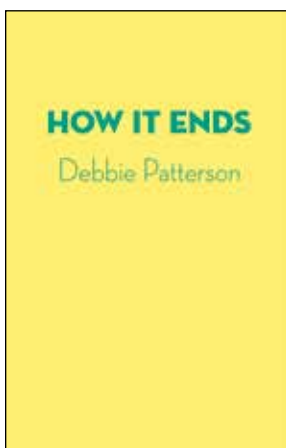
Patterson, the founder of Sick + Twisted Theatre, looks at the issue of medical assistance in dying from the perspective of a person with a disability – a perspective quite different from the mainstream opinion.

"I know that many people see me in my wheelchair and believe that my life is not worth living," she says. "But I know that my disability has transformed my life in many ways for the better. How tragic would it be for someone to opt out of life because they can't imagine living well with diminishment!"

"Public policy is a blunt instrument, but art is capable of exploring big ideas with complexity and nuance." 🌿



Debbie Patterson



Tale follows 3 generations of Indigenous women's art, activism, survival 'through acts of love'

Play by Cree-Saulteaux artist examines resistance to ongoing colonialism, impacts on family

by Steve Locke

THE WAR BEING WAGED

Darla Contois

Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing

\$15.95 pb, 48 pages

ISBN: 978-1-990737-18-3

Produced by Prairie Theatre Exchange in the fall of 2021 and now being published as a book, Cree-Saulteaux theatre artist and playwright Darla Contois's play *The War Being Waged* is a multidisciplinary, multi-generational work exploring the roles that art, activism, and family play in the lives of Indigenous women resisting ongoing colonialism in Canada today.



Contois, who lives in Winnipeg, explains, "By doing the work it takes to relearn our new languages, cultures, and traditions we are step-by-step reclaiming our voices. Fighting back with love. We survive through acts of love for our children and families."

The book opens with a paragraph explaining context for the play, which is structured into three sections, each following one of three generations of female characters. Creative freedom is given to production designers to add visual and sound elements.

For Contois, activism is a means of communication with the power to bring large groups together to relay messages that could otherwise be ignored.

The first section is a storytelling monologue from the grandmother who, as a young woman, leaves the reserve to learn about colonial injustice at university in Toronto. With no interest in being a "Good Indian," she becomes a mother and front-line activist who is forced into an intimate and tragic faceoff against a familiar Armed Forces soldier.



PATRICK SHANNON

"We survive through acts of love for our children and families."

DARLA CONTOIS

For Contois, activism is a means of communication with the power to bring large groups together to relay messages that could otherwise be ignored. "As an artist, it teaches me how tenacity and relentlessness are key parts of telling a story and being heard," she says. "I use my writing now as my voice and believe that with a larger audience I may effect greater change."

The second section features the daughter, whose voice is expressed through spoken word poetry in short emotional vignettes where she both grounds and empowers herself by connecting to her heritage and the inheritance of love, community, and cultural identity brought by family.

The play ends with a dance performance by the granddaughter, Lillian, who is the only named character in the play. In her, the narrative comes full circle as she is faced with the same questions, anxieties, and hopes of the previous speakers. The dancer playing Lillian responds to prompts that indicate an emotional journey and expresses them through movement, in the end somehow showing the audience, as the final prompt suggests, "The only thing that makes sense to me is home."

“Lillian has, in my opinion, the greatest mountain to climb,” says Contois. “I don’t think I could have put what she has in front of her into words, which is why her part is mostly dance.

“My only intention was for the audience to feel what she feels. Completely lost and outweighed.”

In *The War Being Waged*, and in the face of continued struggle on the front lines, in the home, and within

oneself, what survives for Contois is also what is most sacred to protect.

“This play at its heart is about family,” she says. “It’s about how modern-day colonialism still comes between us. The best way I knew how to tell that story was through the women because no matter what we’ve been through, we will always fight for our families.”

MORE DRAMA

AFTER THE FIRE & THE PARTICULARS

Matthew MacKenzie

Two dark comedies from the author of *Bear* portray, in very different ways, what people are capable of when pushed to their breaking point. *After the Fire* centres on two couples dealing with the ruin left by the 2016 fire in Fort McMurray. *The Particulars* shows how Gordon, despite following careful routines to control his everyday life, is unravelled by invaders in his garden and in his home.

(Playwrights Canada Press, \$21.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-409-0)

BLUEBIRDS

Vern Thiessen

During the final stretch of the First World War, nurses Christy, Bab, and Maggie care for wounded Canadian soldiers, and gradually reveal more of their personal hopes and concerns to each other. Throughout all the trauma, the women find friendship, independence, power, and influence in a world that men are trying to destroy.

(Playwrights Canada Press, \$18.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-385-7)

FIVE MINUTES TO CURTAIN: A TEACHERS’ GUIDE FOR CREATING AND STAGING ORIGINAL PLAYS

Linda Lori Burgess

This practical tool kit for teachers who want to create original productions in collaboration with their students includes a step-by-step guide beginning with determining the purpose, continuing with developing characters and scenes, choosing the cast and crew, holding rehearsals, and concluding with production concerns, the performance, and even the cast party!

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 84 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990737-19-0)

ORPHAN SONG

Sean Dixon

This innovative and moving play explores adoption, family, and culture clash through Neanderthal and Early Modern Human

characters, using a limited vocabulary and musical speech based on birdsong.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990737-17-6)

OTHER PEOPLE

Daniel Brooks

Based on the playwright’s experiences during a 10-day silent retreat, this solo drama invites the audience to eavesdrop on the anxieties, joys, obsessions, and fantasies of the character, who has recently been diagnosed with a disease deemed terminal and so feels a particular need to be heard and understood.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990737-16-9)

New from Dora Dueck



Return Stroke: essays & memoir

June 2022 | 248 pages paper | \$20
ISBN 978-1-987986-10-5
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**CMU
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Colouring book paired with teachings can offer quiet time, healing, connection, and more

Traverse hopes her third book can open discussions into historical truths and the way forward

by Melanie J. Murray

RESILIENCE:

Honouring the Children of Residential Schools

Jackie Traverse

Roseway-Fernwood Publishing

\$24.00 pb, 64 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77363-559-0

Available as an ebook



learn something through a book, by spending a quiet moment with someone they love or even alone – that’s the real medicine right there.”

The hard work of healing is something Traverse knows well. Originally from Lake St. Martin First Nation, she entered the child welfare system young, narrowly avoided being sent to Fort Qu’Appelle Residential School, experienced years being moved from place to place in foster care, and at 16, she was moved into the independent living program, and then aged out of care. These experiences developed her fierce independence and inspired much of her art.

“I was in foster care and bad things were said about my people, my mother, my culture. Everything,” she says. “Foster parents that do that intentionally, I believe, for me to hear it, to try and lower my self-esteem and to hurt me. And you know what? It just never did. I’d just like to, right now, give a shout out: ‘Creator, thank you for this thick skin!’”

“And you know what? Those things didn’t work. If anything, they fuelled me and made me stronger.”

Traverse’s greatest tool against oppression is using her art to raise awareness and foster healing. “That’s a driving force in what I do,” she says.

“There are a lot of issues that I want to talk about that aren’t being addressed, so I get inspired by that.” 🌿

Readers may feel the need to adopt a guarded heart when picking up Jackie Traverse’s third colouring book, *Resilience: Honouring the Children of Residential Schools*. For anyone who knows, loves, or are themselves survivors of these schools, of day schools, of the Sixties Scoop, and of the child welfare system, the topic hits especially close to home. While the book deals with a difficult subject, Traverse hopes it can also be healing.

The collection of 40 striking images on themes of healing, ceremony, matriarchal and ancestral knowledge, interconnectivity, and resilience, accompanied by related traditional teachings and personal observations from Traverse, invites readers to meditate on how people can individually, as a community, and as a nation, find the way forward.

“I hope that it can be used as a teaching tool for grandparents to colour with their grandchildren and parents to educate their kids about what happened – in a more sensitive way,” says Traverse, who has lived in downtown Winnipeg for over 35 years. She says all people, not just survivors, can use the colouring

experience as a way into discussions that confront the truth.

The work in this book transcends what can be expressed through language, and contemplating images through colouring is an excellent tool for processing their intricate meaning and for building relationships.

“I’ve had people say that they’ve gotten closer with their kids. And with their children, it’s a special time

for them to have some quiet time and to just sit there and colour. Women have said they’ve taught their children things through some of the teachings that are in the book,” Traverse says.

“Sometimes people don’t have access to getting teachings from our Elders and Medicine People in the community – so for them to



Jackie Traverse

Strong-willed characters navigate multigenerational family dynamics, investigate disappearance

Protagonist Luka seeks to understand Hutterite ancestry, reconnect, and find answers

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

DANCELAND DIARY

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

Radiant Press

\$25.00 pb, 328 pages

ISBN: 978-1-98927-482-8

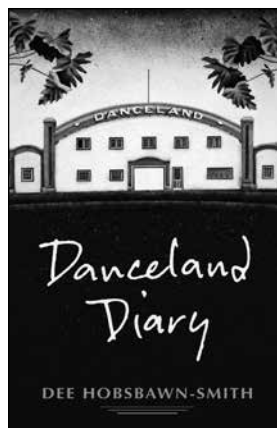
Where do writers find their ideas? In the case of dee Hobsbawn-Smith, a family story provided the inspiration for her absorbing debut novel, *Danceland Diary*.

“My mother and her younger sister repeatedly told me an apocryphal family tale about their grandfather, who disappeared as a young man, and a well always figured prominently in their stories,” she says. “Those ideas provided the initial impetus for *Danceland Diary*.”

Hobsbawn-Smith grew up on a family farm west of Saskatoon and currently resides there. She writes in several genres, including poetry, short stories, and essays. Her previous works have been shortlisted for several prizes, and *Foodshed: An Edible Alberta Alphabet* received international attention, placing third in the MFK Fisher Award for Excellence in Culinary Writing, and receiving the High Plains Best Culinary Book Award.

Set in rural Saskatchewan and Vancouver, *Danceland Diary* follows Luka, a 32-year-old horticulturalist, and her elderly grandmother Anky, a descendant of off-colony Hutterites. After her daughter Lark vanished, Anky undertook the task of raising her young granddaughters, Luka and her sister.

At the outset, Luka and her son Jordan move from Vancouver to Saskatchewan to stay with Anky on her farm for a few months. Luka has three goals in mind: to let Jordan and his great-grandmother get to know each other, to learn more about her Hutterite ancestors, and to question Anky about Lark’s disappearance 24 years ago. Luka receives these gifts and more.



For years, Hobsbawn-Smith wondered about what she could do with the idea of people who vanish from their family’s life and how she could explore it in two ways and two generations. She says, “I wanted to examine how multi-generational repression of feelings and communication can damage people and their relationships.”

Accordingly, there is some overlap between the novel plot line and Hobsbawn-Smith’s background. In her words, “Like my central character Luka, I returned to the family farm to live in Saskatchewan as an adult, albeit an older one. And also like Luka, my maternal family are off-colony Hutterites.”

To link the three generations of characters, Hobsbawn-Smith includes within the narrative some diary entries written by Anky in her youth. “This technique adds a strand of realism that grounds the narrative in the era and adds a point-of-view shift. Furthermore,” she adds, “the diary entries vary the texture of the narrative and provide a break in tone and style that can be refreshing for the reader.”

Among Hobsbawn-Smith’s favourite characters in the novel is Tessa, a somewhat hardened woman who features prominently in Anky’s diaries. “She is fascinating, unrepentant in pursuing her own agenda, but also engaging, even though she’s a nasty piece of work,” says Hobsbawn-Smith.

Anky is Hobsbawn-Smith’s other choice. “My female characters have backbone to spare, and strong wills, their self-reliance exacerbated by a general unwillingness to ask for help.”

Hobsbawn-Smith considers her target audience to be people of all genders who care about dignity and respect, and who see the value of loving one’s family and expressing love.

“In my novel,” she says, “I hope my readers rediscover faith in self and others, resilience, willingness to share feelings, concern for each other’s well-being – all those things that make us human.”



dee Hobsbawn-Smith

RICHARD MARIAN

Debut chapter book series highlights Vietnamese culture, complexity of kids' experiences

Gifts, connection with ancestors guide Nguyen siblings as they face problems

by Laura McKay

THE SECRET OF THE JADE BANGLE

The Nguyen Kids, Book 1

Linda Trinh

Illustrated by Clayton Nguyen

Annick Press

128 pages

\$23.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77321-715-4

\$8.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77321-716-1

THE POWER OF THE PEARL EARRINGS

The Nguyen Kids, Book 2

Linda Trinh

Illustrated by Clayton Nguyen

Annick Press

128 pages

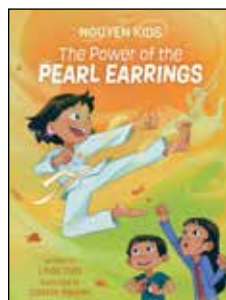
\$23.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77321-710-9

\$8.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77321-711-6

The Nguyen Kids, a celebration of Vietnamese culture and the role of grandparents, is Linda Trinh's debut series of chapter books. With universal themes and empowered characters, the series is aimed at early readers from six to nine years old.

The Nguyen Kids are three Vietnamese Canadian siblings who have each inherited a gift from their grandmother – a jade bangle for Anne, a pair of pearl earrings for Liz, and a painted fan for Jacob. Despite being recently deceased, Grandma Nội is very present in their lives, and her gifts are anything but ordinary.

"I grew up with the Vietnamese spiritual tradition of ancestor veneration," Trinh explains. "My dad passed away when I was seven years old, so we had an altar for him and made offerings regularly. Because of this, I've always felt close to him and to my ancestors." Grandma Nội's gifts help the Nguyen siblings feel close to their grandmother's spirit, providing guidance and strength when they need it most.



The series' first two books are being released simultaneously, with a third to follow. Interwoven with Grandma Nội's gifts and guidance are relatable problems kids face – from striving to be the best ballet dancer and having friend troubles to navigating allyship and confronting discrimination.

The Secret of the Jade Bangle, Book 1, follows Anne as she learns to be proud of her culture in the face of her ballet teacher's racist remarks. In *The Power of the Pearl Earrings*, Book 2, Liz's sense of self is threatened by the new kid's boys-only rules – and the betrayal of her Best Friend Ever. Following the experiences of younger brother Jacob, *The Mystery of the Painted Fan* will explore gender identity and stereotypes when it is released in 2023.

"It means so much to me for readers of Vietnamese and Asian descent to be able to see themselves in the books – their family dynamics, spiritual practices, food, and questions of identity," says Trinh.

Illustrator Clayton Nguyen, a second-generation Vietnamese Canadian living in Ontario, says sharing his last name with the main characters is "just a happy accident." However, his own childhood memories inspired many of the series' illustrations.

"Things like the Nguyen family shrine are often reminiscent of things my family or friends' families had in our houses," he explains.

Alongside Vietnamese culture, Trinh says she wanted "to reflect and highlight the complexities of kids' experiences," especially for kids from historically marginalized communities.

"It's important to me to write these types of stories because unfortunately, kids do face these things in real life – discrimination, prejudice, hate, violence – as they are trying to figure out who they are."

Young readers from Winnipeg will also recognize settings and familiar references.

"I have lived in Winnipeg most of my life, and I chose to raise my family here," says Trinh. "Why not set my series in Winnipeg? It's great to showcase that people live all over. Watch for some Winnipeg landmarks in each book!" 🌿



Linda Trinh



Clayton Nguyen

Archival deep dive into Ukrainian family history considers settler narrative

Led by photographs and bolstered by research, but Myrna Kostash writes herself in as well

by Paula E. Kirman

GHOSTS IN A PHOTOGRAPH:

A Chronicle

Myrna Kostash

NeWest Press

\$24.95 pb, 304 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77439-057-3

Available as an ebook

A picture says a thousand words, but for Myrna Kostash, a photograph led to an entire memoir exploring mysteries about her family's history. *Ghosts in a Photograph: A Chronicle* delves into the lives of the Edmonton-based writer's grandparents. All of them moved from Galicia (present-day western Ukraine) to Alberta at the turn of the 20th century. Also included are the, often elusive, stories of a few assorted relatives left behind.

After discovering some family photographs, Kostash began to question what she knew about her extended families' pasts. Through her research, she creates a narrative to fill in the gaps and confronts the idea that linear voices can make up one's personal stories.

According to Kostash, *Ghosts in a Photograph* began with a photograph of a Kostashchuk in Ukraine (the "chuk" was dropped in Canada), someone neither she nor any of her Canadian relatives had ever heard of. "In fact, mysterious relatives who never emigrated kept popping up in photographs that came my way," she says.

An additional stimulus included family photographs taken in Canada, "which provided another kind of challenge," she explains. "I set myself the task of looking at them through the lens of who I am now, 120-plus years after the families' settlement in Alberta."

Kostash's research was, in her words, "formidable. Besides secondary sources, many online, I ransacked

archival documents and files, conducted interviews, looked again into my own notebooks from ages ago, and, of course, studied family photographs."

There were some surprises along the way. For example, there had been two writers called Kostashchuk about whom not a word seems to have been spoken in Canada – "except, as I discovered through sleuthing, in one line in a letter my father wrote to a cousin in Ukraine," says Kostash.

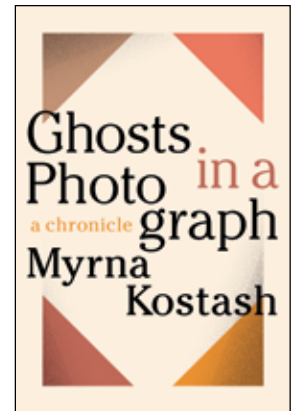
"Another surprise was to realize how the prehistories of my grandparents aligned with their circumstances in Canada: land poor in Galicia and proletarians in Canada; wealth in land in Galicia and a productive homestead in Canada."

Readers may become inspired to delve into their own histories to discover information about their personal narratives. "In the end we all inherit the family photographs. And we learn things about our past that keep on speaking to us long after the people in the photographs are no longer among the living," says Kostash.

"And most of us probably come not that far back from settlers who brought some family stories with them and abandoned others. I invite the reader to place herself into my shoes and see where they take her among her own 'ghosts.'"

Kostash is very conscious of her and her families' settler status, and she ends the book with an exploration of her own relationship to the land and to the Indigenous Peoples who share it.

"I wrote *Ghosts* very much in the era of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the conversations that have flowed from its *Report*," she says. "As the granddaughter of homesteaders on Treaty 6 Territory and as a writer committed to the values of human solidarity and community, I conclude *Ghosts in a Photograph: A Chronicle*, by turning the lens on myself." 🌿



Myrna Kostash

Time-travel adventure dives into ancestral history to explore migration, hardship

Middle-years novel balances current events of the present while reflecting on the past

by Shirley Byers

THE TREASURE BOX

Judith Silverthorne

Your Nickel's Worth Publishing

\$19.95 pb, 192 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988783-88-8

Prolific Saskatchewan author Judith Silverthorne's latest book for middle years readers is *The Treasure Box*, a time-travel adventure set in Regina. Augustus (please call him Gus) is in Grade 5 and has very recently moved there from Calgary with his mom and his sister, Hannah. They will live, at least for now, with his widowed grandfather.

Silverthorne set out to explore her mother's Germanic family history, but she also wanted to ground her book in contemporary times, and work through the experiences of children today, especially ones who are uprooted and trying to find their place in the world.

"I wanted to do a different kind of time-shift book that was ancestral, skipping a few generations maybe, but [that] had a strong connection to the present," she says.

"I also wanted to make it a little more complex, incorporating what's happening in the world in current times, as well as have a strong subplot about prejudicial attitudes and bullying against those trying to fit into a world that is different from the one they left behind."

Gus is dealing with the move away from his friends in Calgary, bullies at his new school, and a grandfather who is transitioning to a seniors' home.



Judith Silverthorne

Then his teacher assigns what looks to be an almost impossible task – to research and write a family history. Research possibilities seem slim. His grandmother died before he was born and "he'd never get anything from his loser dad" or from anyone else on that side of his family.

However, Grandad is more than willing to help. He gives Gus access to a desk full of papers in the attic, where, among military records and birth certificates, Gus finds a carved wooden box that somehow transports him to the past where he experiences episodes of his ancestral history.

The Treasure Box covers a period beginning in 1783 in Silverthorne's own family history – a time of persecution and flight from Germany to Austria to Russia and finally to North America in the 1880s. Both Gus's and Silverthorne's ancestors in Europe migrated due to conflicts between political powers over land and religious leanings.

"With it came heartache, poverty, religious persecution, ethnic stigmas, cultural oppression, and devastating change and hardship, brought on by wars, famine, floods, typhus, cholera, smallpox, blights, and crop failures due to extreme weather conditions," she says.

Many people in today's world face similar challenges, as shown in the novel by young Yussuf, who had to leave Syria with his family due to civil war. In his friendship with Yussuf, and his sensitivity toward his grandfather, Gus proves to be a very empathetic and responsible young person.

The relatable characters and vivid action combined with historical and contemporary social issues make *The Treasure Box* appealing to young readers and to their educators, and Silverthorne has long been a favourite among these audiences.

She says, "I've been fortunate in my career as a writer in having some of my books used in the school systems or fit in a niche that seems to garner attention, and I'm grateful for the readerships that buy my books." 🌿



Edmonton professor's essays an introspective addition to pandemic time capsule

Amy Kaler aimed to collect moments of experience, not 'authoritative history'

by Alicia Chantal

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

A Year in Pandemic Time

Amy Kaler

University of Alberta Press

\$26.99 pb, 184 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77212-625-9

Available as an ebook

Reflecting on the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, University of Alberta sociology professor Amy Kaler never dreamed Canadians were on the verge of seismic social shifts.

"When the pandemic began, it was shocking, but I also thought it was going to be time-limited," she says. "Everybody stays home for 14 days, close businesses and schools and roll out financial aid, wait it out, and the virus will die off on its own when it can't get new hosts.

Well, that didn't happen."

Until Further Notice: A Year in Pandemic Time is an experiential, first-person account, written from March 2020 to March 2021.

Perceptions of time, spatial awareness, and community are explored throughout the short essays as Kaler examines her own journey through the first year of the pandemic.

Her thoughts were largely written in real time as events unfolded. Looking back on it has revealed a different awareness.

"The feel of COVID plus two years is very different from COVID at time zero or COVID plus one year. Less sharp-shock, more wearing and grinding down," she says.

"We also have the awareness that this could, and probably will, happen again, whether it's a novel variant on the no-longer-so-novel coronavirus or a completely different pathogen. COVID is now part of the eternal present."

Edmonton's river valley takes centre stage in *Until Further Notice*. Kaler, who lives in the city, recounts many instances where nature acted as refuge and

inspiration during the pandemic's early days and likens her sense of self to being bent like a tree in a storm. "Trees don't just appear randomly by themselves," Kaler says. "They're part of networks of other trees – their chances of survival are partly determined by the others around them."

Kaler discovered that her sense of herself as a social being has also been bent during this time. "I think everyone who's been through this pandemic has had

the experience of realizing that they've got a friend or family member or a tree in their forest who deeply and passionately disagrees with their understanding of pandemics and politics. Part of the experience of being warped by the pandemic is the warping that happens in my social field, the realization that people may not be what I thought they were."

The short, snapshot essays make the book a kind of time

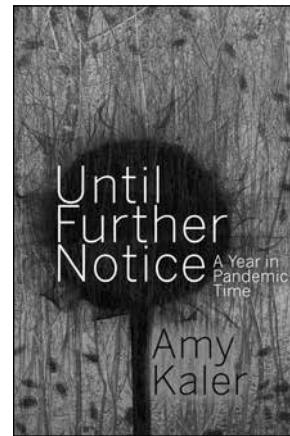
capsule, with its random collection of artifacts, Kaler says, "partly because it's pretty small and self-contained. This isn't an authoritative history of the pandemic; it's a series of moments of experience.

"It carries the imprint of many moments during the first year, even as time moves on and the first year is now in the rearview mirror."

Kaler hopes readers will recognize some of their own experiences, and appreciate that she has rendered them more meaningful by putting them into words.

"I hope people take away a sense of the importance of being an honest witness, of trying to understand what is going on around you, of trying to capture a moment in some form," she says.

"Sometimes all you can do is be that honest witness." 🌿



Amy Kaler

Anti-racist scholars, activists call for ‘dramatic reinvention’ of how we see ourselves, others

Local experiences linked to systemic racism for both scholarly, general audiences

by Kam Teo

RACISM IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA AND ANTI-RACIST ACTIVISM FOR CHANGE

Edited by Caroline Hodes and Glenda Tibe Bonifacio

Athabasca University Press

\$34.99 pb, 288 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77829-000-8

Available as an ebook

To shed light on how localized experiences relate to broader structural and systemic forms of racism, University of Lethbridge academics Caroline Hodes and Glenda Tibe Bonifacio have edited *Racism in Southern Alberta and Anti-Racist Activism for Change*, a collection of works by scholars and activists.

While the contributors all have some connection to the University of Lethbridge, they come from a variety of backgrounds, including Blackfoot, Palestinian, Métis, Filipino, Turkish, and Mexican, and provide diverse perspectives from areas of interest such as justice, queer, postcolonial, women and gender, oral history, and cultural studies.

One chapter collects pieces from the members of the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee (RLAC), which includes representatives from Lethbridge’s post-secondary institutions, school divisions, business sector, and city councils.

Hodes and Bonifacio understand the importance of collaboration in anti-racist work. They were instrumental in creating SNAC+ (Support Network for Students and Academics of Colour, Plus), a group of scholars and community advocates interested in achieving racial justice in Lethbridge.

“We are currently working on building capacity as a society because nothing like us exists in southern Alberta,” says Hodes. The idea for *Racism in Southern Alberta* emerged out of the work of this group.

Organized into three sections – Everyday and Institutional Racisms, Belonging/Un-Belonging, and

Policing and Carceral Logics – the book includes personal narratives, ethnographical studies, critical discussions, dialogues, oral histories, and even poetry. This range of forms makes it valuable for scholars, but also accessible and engaging for general readers.

Various practices of racism are presented throughout the 12 chapters, including how racist teachers affected the social and academic life of a young Blackfoot boy; how two Filipino women adjust their teaching practices to fit

a mainly white university environment; and how mass media portrayals of victims and perpetrators reinforce racist sexism.

Achieving even some progress toward racial justice is hard work for everyone involved.

“Nobody will ever have an easy time pointing out racism and racist behaviours, policies, practices, and speech,” says Hodes.

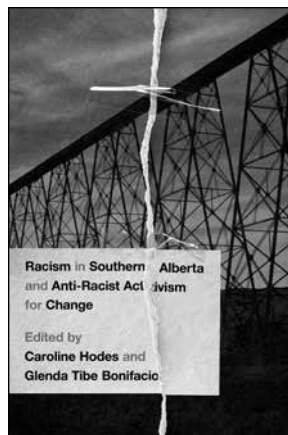
As institutions go, the University of Lethbridge is making efforts, as shown by

SNAC+, the RLAC, and the support – in the form of an associate professorship with a salary and tenure – that Hodes receives for the anti-racist work that she does.

But that doesn’t mean that it’s a place where diversity flourishes. “All Canadian universities have a lot of work to do before they can pretend to be bastions of free thought and inclusion, before I can say that I am fully supported in the work that I do,” Hodes says.

And reforming universities is just a small part of what needs to happen.

Hodes says, “Today we live in a world that needs dramatic reinvention, where how people see themselves and are seen by others needs to change.” 🌿



Disillusioned with hunting, self-proclaimed 'wildlife nut' dives into predators

Carpenter indulges fascination with snakes and feral pigs in hopes of evoking love, vigilance

by Margaret Anne Fehr

I NEVER MET A RATTLESNAKE I DIDN'T LIKE:

A Memoir

David Carpenter

Thistledown Press

\$24.95 pb, 248 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77187-227-0

Saskatoon-based author David Carpenter's new book, *I Never Met a Rattlesnake I Didn't Like: A Memoir*, highlights chapter-by-chapter a cast of lesser loved predaceous critters – including mosquitos, dragonflies, weasels, feral pigs, snakes, grizzlies, and others – which would be less likely to pull on the heartstrings of concerned wildlife conservationists.

When asked if the less-than-cute, scary critters in his book might not be interesting to readers, Carpenter elaborates, "A good question, but no, for two reasons. First of all, I've never much worried about what readers might like. I've always written about what fascinates me, what excites me. This excitement is what drives the writing until the book is finished.

"Secondly, as I've recently become aware, nearly everyone is interested in monsters."

Around 2010, Carpenter had been writing a lot about hunting – especially how he had quit hunting and he disapproved of what it had become. "Less and less about respecting wildlife and habitat, less about intimacy with the wild, and more and more about shooting and shooting technology – scopes and high tech rifles and trail cameras. It had become heartless and destructive," he says.

That's when Carpenter's allegiances got transferred from the hunters to the animals. "I wrote and published a few pieces in the 2010s about predaceous creatures," he says. "The idea of a book based on memories and research began to grow. When at last I had re-educated

myself on such things as threatened habitats, ecology, the climate crisis, critical anthropomorphism, animal life cycles, and good old-fashioned wildlife zoology, I was bursting to write a book. The writing began around the time the pandemic descended on all of us."

Carpenter explains that he was ready to write this book because he had just sent off a couple of works of fiction. "My decks were cleared," he says. "The timing was also right because, in the aftermath of so much work on fiction, I had become emptied out and listless. For me, this state of mind has always been relieved by an orgy of non-fiction writing, which I love to do.

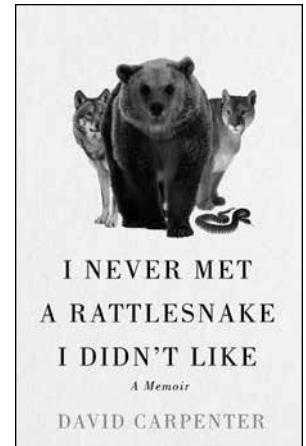
"I don't have to invent a voice to tell my stories, I don't have to invent characters or re-invent a certain locus or a historical era. I just have to follow my passion, do the research, let the thing grow in me, and write it down."

Carpenter identifies animal lovers, hikers and campers, and wildlife nuts (he includes himself in that category) as readers who would appreciate this collection of essays.

"Most great literature is set primarily indoors, but there is a potentially big audience, a growing, intelligent audience that is fascinated by animals, that wants them to thrive in the wilds, an audience that knows the severe threats to the survival of such magnificent monsters as cougars and rattlesnakes, wolves and bears. Bless them all, the apex predators, and the people who see that carnivorous creatures and their habitat are sacred."

Carpenter hopes his readers are moved by these encounters, and gain "a feeling of love and vigilance for these creatures.

"Well, *most* of these creatures. The jury's out on mosquitoes and feral hogs." 🐍



David Carpenter

Interviews, analysis explore themes such as resilience in Miriam Toews's work

Sabrina Reed's research intertwines literature with critical disability studies

by Margaret Goldik

LIVES LIVED, LIVES IMAGINED:

Landscapes of Resilience in the Works of Miriam Toews

Sabrina Reed

University of Manitoba Press

\$27.95 pb, 264 pages

with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-1-77284-009-4

Available as an ebook



Sabrina Reed

Dr. Sabrina Reed, an English professor at Mount Royal University in Calgary, gives academics and non-academics alike a fascinating look at the oeuvre of a celebrated Canadian writer. In *Lives Lived, Lives Imagined: Landscapes of Resilience in the Works of Miriam Toews*, Reed uses interviews with Toews, as well as the writings of others, to take an insightful look at Toews's exploration of resilience.

Reed's research considers intersections between Canadian literature and critical disability studies. "Originally, I came to critical disability studies via an interest in how mental illness is portrayed in literature, and because of my teaching and research in Canadian literature, my interest focused there," she explains.

The subject of mental illness crops up in most of Toews's books. Portrayals of depression and suicide reflect some of the events of Toews's life, although Reed points out that Toews's writing transcends biography. Her overarching theme, Reed suggests, is resilience.

The concept of resilience is having its moment in the sun, thanks to the ongoing pandemic. "I started working on the monograph officially in 2019, but I had been giving papers on Toews's work for many years before that," Reed says. "COVID-19 made me reflect on the idea of resilience in the general population, since COVID required resilience of us all."

Another impact of the pandemic was that Reed's scheduled interview with Toews was held online rather than in person.

When she started to think about her book project, Reed asked herself what themes from Toews's work resonated with her and other readers. "The main themes came first," she says, "and then I thought of how each theme was linked to Toews's ongoing discussion of resilience in the face of trauma."

Reed discerned four themes: home, escape, resilience in the face of (specifically Mennonite) structures that keep people "in their place," and the use of autofiction to rebuild and repair. Each theme is discussed in depth, with perceptive references to eight of Toews's compassionate, brilliant books. Reed concludes her study by showing how Toews's most recent novel, *Fight Night*, ties these themes together with its focus on relationship.

Reed discusses how Toews uses autofiction for self-expression and self-discovery, but there are other ways of dealing with trauma. "For those of us who are drawn to written language, writing is an excellent release, and also a way of clarifying thought processes and feelings," she says.

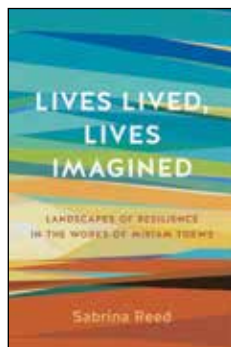
"But counselling techniques such as EMDR [eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy] and cognitive behavioural therapy provide other methods for dealing with trauma.

For some, experiencing healing through bodily relaxation techniques or through systematic desensitization works best."

But Toews's key strategy throughout much of her work is humour.

"Humour is often a way to maintain and foster resilience, and I think this is certainly the case for Miriam Toews," says Reed. "As Elvira says in *Fight Night*, tragedy and comedy are linked and often difficult to disentangle from one another.

"In spite of all the pain in Toews's life, she believes that there is humour in dark situations. Seeing the humour provides a source of resilience." 🌿



MORE NON-FICTION

ART, FILM, & PHOTOGRAPHY

CRITICAL FICTIONS

Hannah Godfrey

In this cross-pollination of criticism, poetry, fiction, and memoir, Godfrey engages with work by five queer and contemporary visual artists: Derek Dunlop, Kristin Nelson, Hagere Selam “shimby” Zegeye-Gebrehiwot, Andrea Oliver Roberts, and Logan MacDonald.

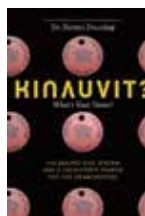
(ARP Books, \$24.00 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-68-7, available as ebook)

EXOVEDE IN THE DARKROOM: THE FILMS OF RHAYNE VERMETTE

Edited by Stephen Broomer and Irene Bindi

This first collection celebrating Vermette's work is a series of responses, critical and poetic, to the Métis experimental filmmaker's visually explosive and materially intimate practice. The collection explores her powerful shorts that engage

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



KINAUVIT?

What's Your Name? The Eskimo Disc System and a Daughter's Search for her Grandmother

DR. NORMA DUNNING, winner of a 2021 Governor General's Award for Literature, takes a revelatory and personal look into an obscured piece of Canadian history. HISTORY/INUIT | \$26.95

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DREAMS AND JOURNEYS

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Book 23

GWEN SJOGREN

unearths a wealth of witty wordplay, a motherlode of puns and a bonanza of Canadiana in 75 large-sized crosswords. PUZZLES | \$18.95

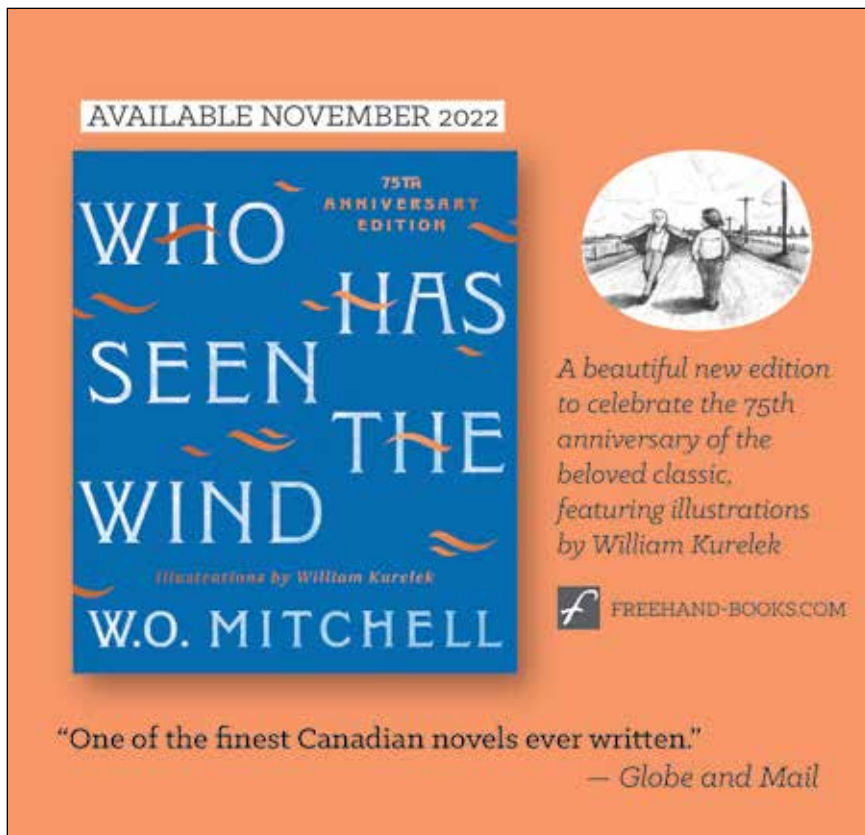


THE BIG MELT

poems

EMILY RIDDLE's debut poetry collection examines what it means to repair kinship, contend with fraught history, go home and contemplate prairie ndn utopia in the era of late capitalism and climate change. POETRY | \$19.95

WWW.NIGHTWOODEDITIONS.COM



Posthumous collection of writing, interviews an indictment of prison system

Editor hopes collection will serve to humanize 'people who tend to be reduced to a label'

by Paula E. Kirman

THE LIFE SENTENCES OF RIK MCWHINNEY

Rik McWhinney

Edited by Jason Demers

University of Regina Press

\$24.95 pb, 384 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88977-897-9

Available as an ebook

Rik McWhinney's over 34 years of incarceration in Canada's federal penitentiary system – 16 of which were in solitary confinement – began in the 1970s. During the early years of his imprisonment, he was frequently subjected to segregation and medical torture. Eventually, McWhinney turned to writing, and his poetry, essays, grievance forms, and letters both documented and worked to combat the conditions of his confinement.



Rik McWhinney

McWhinney died in 2019 in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the age of 67. *The Life Sentences of Rik McWhinney*, a collection of his writing and interviews edited by Jason Demers, provides an indictment of the prison system as a place of violence and psychological turmoil rather than rehabilitation and reform.

Demers, an assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Regina, is well situated to edit this collection. "I met Rik shortly after moving to Regina in 2012. We quickly learned that we shared a love of literature, and of certain authors – Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, George Jackson, Jean Genet," he says.

McWhinney shared his poetry with Demers, and asked him to help get it published.

McWhinney was not only a poet, but also an articulate and compelling public speaker, talking openly about his

experiences of incarceration. "People were always asking him when he was going to publish a book about his life," says Demers. The two men spent the next several years discussing how McWhinney might publish his poetry while at the same time giving readers a broader sense of where his poetry came from.

After McWhinney's death due to undiagnosed lung cancer, Demers saw the project through to publication, in the hope that McWhinney's eloquent words will make an impact on the system that consumed so much of his life.

"At the very least," Demers says, "I hope this book helps to humanize people who tend to be reduced to a label."

While the book tells one man's story, Demers emphasizes that McWhinney's experiences are representative of the experiences of many marginalized people.

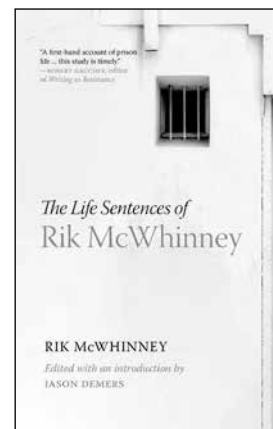
"So many of the people Rik was incarcerated with as a child ended up in the federal penitentiary system," he says. "These are kids that knew nothing but violence and abuse. We think that prisons are there to cage monsters, when we should be thinking about how we might better invest in our communities because most of the people who end up in prison – victimizing people in the process – are people who have slipped through sizable cracks."

McWhinney's words will outlive him, and possibly do more good in the world than they did him in life.

"While I wouldn't say that writing was healing for Rik, it was certainly a way for him to productively channel his frustration and despair," Demers says.

"Incarceration means that you have very little control over your life – Rik was routinely subjected to involuntary transfer and he was perpetually denied medical care for chronic conditions that accumulated over the years – but Rik had a command of the English language.

"While his words had very little power while he was incarcerated, the hope is that their impact will be more profound now that they've been released." 🌿



collage practices, as well as her feature film *Ste Anne*.

(ARP Books, \$26.00 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-70-0, available as ebook)

***SHADOW AND LIGHT: A
PHYSICIAN'S LENS ON COVID***

Heather Patterson

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, emergency physician Heather Patterson turned to photography to help her unwind, and decided to chronicle the impact of the pandemic on Calgary emergency rooms. This selection of her most striking photos brings readers to the front lines for a behind-the-scenes view of the heroic health-care workers.

(Goose Lane Editions, \$35.00 hc, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77310-274-0)

***SUBJECT TO CHANGE: WRITING
AND INTERVIEWS***

Liz Magor

Bringing together catalogue statements, essays, conversations, lecture notes, communications with gallery owners and writers, and unpublished writings by Liz Magor spanning more than four decades, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the sculptor's practice. It includes black-and-white and colour photographs of Magor's pivotal works. (Concordia University Press, \$59.95 pb, 290 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988111-33-9, available as ebook)

GAMES & GUIDE BOOKS

***BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING: A
SASKATCHEWAN GUIDE***

Trevor Herriot and Myrna Pearman

This full-colour guide to the art and science of attracting and feeding birds covers everything from habitat, migration, and bird behaviour to the basics of offering food and water and dealing with a wide range of problems that may arise.

(Nature Saskatchewan, \$19.95 pb, 112 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-0-921104-35-3)

BIRDS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Edited by Alan R. Smith, C. Stuart Houston, and J. Frank Roy

This full-colour, comprehensive look at all of the 437 species of birds that call

Saskatchewan home is a record of change that celebrates the province's rich natural heritage and acknowledges the efforts made to study and sustain each bird's presence.

(Nature Saskatchewan, \$79.95 hc, 768 pages, ISBN: 978-1-56581-231-4)

***CONSERVING THE LEGACY:
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN
SASKATCHEWAN, 1905–2005***

G. Wayne Pepper

After a lifetime devoted to wildlife conservation, Pepper relates personal experiences, and adds extensive research and archival photos, to trace the changes in wildlife populations and demonstrate how approaches to wildlife conservation have evolved in the face of settlement, development, and ecological change.

(Nature Saskatchewan, \$34.95 pb, 392 pages, ISBN: 978-0-921104-36-0)

O CANADA CROSSWORDS: BOOK 23

Gwen Sjogren

This latest instalment of O Canada Crosswords includes themes such as big tech, fashion, sports, movies, puns, transportation, geography, education, and food in 75 large-sized puzzles. Also included are the challenging non-themed Canada Cornucopia grids.

(Nightwood Editions, \$18.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-434-2)

TOP 150 UNUSUAL THINGS TO SEE IN ALBERTA

Debbie Olsen

This ultimate guide for travellers looking for the quirky and inspiring side of Alberta takes readers on a journey across the province to shed light on the interesting history and unique facts of such locations as the World Famous Gopher Hole Museum, Wood Buffalo National Park's Beaver Dam, and the Fort Museum in Fort Macleod, which is the birthplace of the RCMP musical ride.

(Firefly Books, \$29.95 pb, 272 pages, with full-colour photos, maps, index, ISBN: 978-0-2281-0372-1)

**BIOGRAPHIES/
MEMOIRS & ESSAYS**

***THE BATTLE CRY OF THE SIAMESE
KITTEN: EVEN MORE TALES FROM
THE ACCIDENTAL VETERINARIAN***
Philipp Schott, DVM

In this third collection of stories from his life as a veterinarian, Dr. Schott introduces readers to some unusual pets, including an escaped newt and a baby snow leopard, along with the usual array of dogs and cats – including Supercat, the titular Siamese kitten – and the wacky people attached to them. He also shares some behind-the-scenes knowledge of the vet life, including how the pandemic changed his practice. (ECW Press, \$22.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-669-7, available as ebook)

***CARRYING IT FORWARD: ESSAYS
FROM KISTAHPINANIHK***

John Brady McDonald

With honesty, humour, and a poetic style, McDonald pulls readers into the life he has lived in Kistahpinanihk, an area that includes Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, with these wide-ranging essays that look at the city of Prince Albert, his experience of residential school, firefighting in the North, history, racism, recovery, and more. (Wolsak & Wynn, \$20.00 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989496-59-6)

THE HEAVEN & HELL OF PLAYING IN THE NHL

Morris Lukowich with Geoff Kirbyson
After a hockey career that included playing with his childhood heroes Gordie Howe and Bobby Hull, leading the Winnipeg Jets to the AVCO Cup, and becoming an NHL captain, Lukowich found that life after hockey was fraught with PTSD, financial troubles, and thoughts of suicide. (Great Plains Publications, \$25.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-085-9)

***KINAVUIT? WHAT'S YOUR NAME? THE
ESKIMO DISC SYSTEM AND A DAUGHTER'S
SEARCH FOR HER GRANDMOTHER***

Norma Dunning

When Dunning applied for her and her sons' Nunavut beneficiary status, she was asked for her disc number. This led to an intense investigation into the Eskimo Identification Canada system and an

obsession with finding disc lists, few of which were on public record. This book presents years of research, interviews with community members, and Dunning's personal story to provide a critical record and response to this hidden history. (Douglas & McIntyre, \$26.95 hc, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77162-339-1, available as ebook)

THE LONGEST SUICIDE: THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF ART BERGMANN

Jason Schneider

This glimpse inside the world of alternative rock chronicles the life of "Canada's Lou Reed" from Bergmann's days helping to lay the foundation of the Vancouver punk scene to his solo work in the 1980s and '90s and a late career resurgence that culminated with being named to the Order of Canada. (Anvil Press, \$24.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77214-196-2)

LOVE & RULES: LIFE LESSONS LEARNED WITH HORSES

Lee McLean

Following up *Horse Woman*, this collection of honest, insightful, and authentic essays covers a range of topics, from love, fear, winning and losing, to leadership, ageing, illness and recovery, and more – all through the vehicle of horsemanship. (Red Barn Books, \$25.95 pb, 224 pages, with photos, index, ISBN: 978-1-989915-08-0, available as ebook)

MAULED: LESSONS LEARNED FROM A GRIZZLY BEAR ATTACK

Crosbie Cotton with Jeremy Evans

This inspiring survival story set in the remote backcountry of the Canadian Rockies tells of how 32-year-old Jeremy Evans endured multiple attacks by a protective female grizzly bear in August 2017 – how he made his way to his truck and to a lodge for help, despite his brutal injuries, and how he made an amazing recovery by setting small goals along the way. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 192 pages, with colour photo section, ISBN: 978-1-77160-483-3, available as ebook)

MEMORIES OF A MANITOBA CHILDHOOD

Dianne Demarcke

Beginning with her parents' childhoods in the 1920s, Demarcke describes how they came to meet before detailing her own childhood with her younger siblings in Laurier, Manitoba. The book includes black-and-white family photos throughout. (Goldrock Press, \$24.5 hc, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927410-74-5)

MODERN FABLES

Mikka Jacobsen

The darkly funny essays in this debut collection blend memoir with cultural and feminist theory to explore career aspirations, love, and the single life in the digital age, and to consider the importance of place in shaping one's identity. (Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-21-7)

MY COUNTRY

George Canyon

The Juno Award-winning country musician recounts his musical journey from small-town Nova Scotia to the big city of Nashville, and finally the wide plains of Alberta, telling, with humour and honesty, of his childhood diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes, his years of touring across the country, and how he was catapulted into stardom after landing a spot on *Nashville Star*, a singing competition TV show. (Simon & Schuster Canada, \$24.99 pb, 256 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-9821-9688-2, available as audiobook)

ORDINARY DEATHS: STORIES FROM MEMORY

Samuel LeBaron

Based on over 30 years of working with children and adults dying from cancer, these stories are meant to help readers find solace and confidence. An early pioneer on managing pain and suffering, Dr. LeBaron shares memories of his childhood in rural Alberta, his employment at a morgue during medical school, his early years as a clinical psychologist, and his later career in hospice care, and shares the current experience of his own terminal illness

– all of which have given him a deep understanding of death.

(University of Alberta Press, \$26.99 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-656-3, available as ebook)

OUR VOICE OF FIRE: A MEMOIR OF A WARRIOR RISING

Brandi Morin

The award-winning French/Cree/Iroquois journalist from Treaty 6 Territory in Alberta gives a brutally honest and powerful account of her life in and out of the foster care system as a child and as a single parent; of working through childhood trauma; and of her work as a journalist, examining the circumstances around MMIWG.

(House of Anansi, \$22.99 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1057-7, available as ebook)

OVERCOME: STORIES OF WOMEN WHO GREW UP IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Anne Mahon

This compelling collection of the stories of 10 women who survive the child welfare system shows how they face challenges, oppression, and trauma, but discover their power through creativity, advocacy, self-awareness, education, motherhood, and empathy.

(Great Plains Publications, \$25.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-083-5)

SAME GROUND: CHASING FAMILY DOWN THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH TRAIL

Russell Wangersky

Wangersky interweaves the diary of his great-great-grandfather recounting his trip to California in search of gold in 1849 with his own journey along the same path by car in search of roots and a sense of family.

(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 370 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-654-3)

SILENCE TO STRENGTH: WRITINGS AND REFLECTIONS ON THE SIXTIES SCOOP

Edited by Christine

Miskonoodinkwe Smith

This collection of pieces by 17 Sixties Scoop survivors details their experiences of adoption, how their culture and community was taken from them, and how they have moved forward in

their healing. These stories offer the mainstream audience the opportunity to learn not only how assimilationist policies have affected Indigenous people in Canada, but also how these people have survived and are strong.
(Kegedonce Press, \$18.00 pb, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-1-928120-33-9)

TALES FROM A SNOWBANK

John Horner

Documenting the author's growth to adulthood in the mid-1950s and early 1960s in Churchill, Manitoba, these tales show readers a part of the world and a way of life that few have experienced. They describe the wildlife, the isolation, the warm community, and the beauty of Hudson Bay, along with the historical importance of Churchill, how global warming has changed the North, and the importance of preserving wildlife and wild spaces.
(FriesenPress, 192 pages, \$39.50 hc, ISBN: 978-1-03-911444-9; \$24.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-03-911443-2)

TOUCH ANYWHERE TO BEGIN

Mark Anthony Jarman

The essays in this new collection examine travel in a post-COVID-19 world. Jarman's travels include wandering the empty streets of Venice in March 2020, visiting a private club in Shanghai, accepting an invitation to the Kala Ghoda Festival in Mumbai, and connecting with a pair of Arctic throat singers.
(Goose Lane Editions, \$22.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-0-86492-919-8, available as ebook)

**TRACKING THE CARIBOU QUEEN:
MEMOIR OF A SETTLER GIRLHOOD**

Margaret Macpherson

In this memoir about her formative years in Yellowknife in the 1960s and '70s, Macpherson lays bare her white privilege, her many unexamined microaggressions, and how her childhood was shaped by the colonialism and systemic racism, as she attempts to work toward a complex and equitable relationship with the Indigenous Peoples on whose land she was raised.
(NeWest Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-061-0, available as ebook)

**UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN: SCOUTING FOR THE
CPR'S CROWSNEST LINE, 1891: AMSTERDAM'S
BOISSEVAIN FAMILY LETTERS, PART 1**

Jan Krijff and Karen Green

In 1891, Karel Boissevain, the son of a successful ship owner, migrates to Canada with his sister Heleen, where he works with a CPR survey crew in Crownsnest Pass. Their letters across the Atlantic to their family and his fiancée capture this intensely emotional period with great honesty.
(Granville Island Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 416 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989467-46-6, available as ebook)

GENERAL NON-FICTION

ABOLITIONIST INTIMACIES

El Jones

Jones examines the movement to abolish prisons through the Black feminist principles of care and collectivity, and argues that intimacy is integral to the ongoing struggles of prisoners for justice and liberation through the care work of building relationships and organizing with the people inside.
(Fernwood Publishing, \$26.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-552-1, available as ebook)

**ABORIGINAL™: THE CULTURAL AND
ECONOMIC POLITICS OF RECOGNITION**

Jennifer Adese

In her multidisciplinary research, Adese explores the origins, meaning, and use of the term *Aboriginal*, and argues that it was a tool used to advance Canada's cultural and economic assimilatory agenda from the 1980s to the mid-2010s. She also shows how the word serves as a kind of "Aboriginalized multicultural" brand at odds with the diversity and complexity of Indigenous Peoples.
(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 272 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-005-6, available as ebook)

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY AS INDIGENOUS
INTELLECTUAL TRADITION: CREE
AND MÉTIS ÂCIMISOWINA**

Deanna Reder

Reder challenges the long-held assumption that autobiography is a European invention by using archival research

to examine censored, neglected, and often unpublished autobiographies or âcimisowina written by Cree and Métis writers such as James Settee, Maria Campbell, Edward Ahenakew, James Brady, and Harold Cardinal.
(Wilfrid Laurier University Press, \$34.99 pb, 194 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77112-554-3, available as ebook)

**BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES
IN RURAL CANADA**

Edited by Clark Banack and Dionne Pohler

While examining the extent and nature of contemporary cultural and religious discrimination in rural Canadian communities, the editors and contributors explore the many efforts by rural citizens, community groups, and municipalities to counter intolerance, build inclusive communities, and become better neighbours.
(University of Alberta Press, \$39.99 pb, with maps, tables, figures, ISBN: 978-1-77212-633-4, available as ebook)

**CANADA'S PLACE NAMES AND
HOW TO CHANGE THEM**

Lauren Beck

Beck surveys a range of Indigenous place names and discusses how settlers misunderstood and appropriated them throughout history, and how language and symbols such as maps and flags reveal whose identities inform Canada's national self-understanding and whose are erased.
(Concordia University Press, \$34.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988111-39-1)

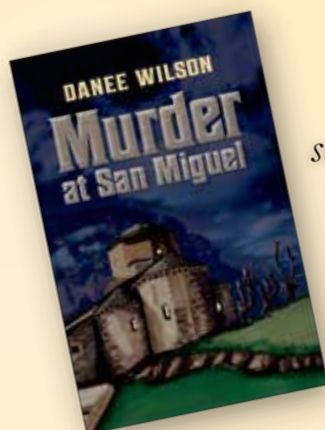
**CARBON CHANGE: CANADA ON THE
BRINK OF DECARBONIZATION**

Dennis McConaghy

This investigation into the scale and costs of transitioning Canada's energy systems to achieve net-zero emissions explores the public policy choices for Canada, looking especially at the major North American energy and climate policy from 2019 to the end of 2021, the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and political processes across the developed world with respect to dealing with climate change risks.
(Dundurn, \$24.99 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4597-5051-7, available as ebook)

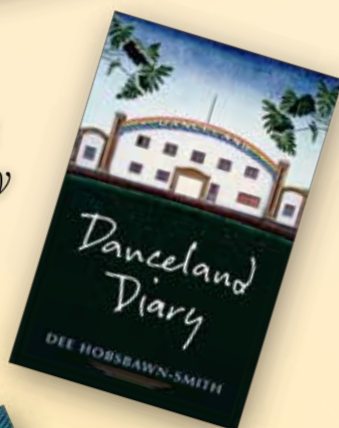
CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Daring debut fiction for fall



*suspicion abounds
after a student
is murdered*

*a disturbing
family history
uncovered*



*a playwright
possessed
by her muses*

radiantpress.ca

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

CAPITAL AND POLITICS

Edited by Greg Albo, Nicole Aschoff, and Alfredo Saad-Filho
The 59th annual volume of the *Socialist Register* examines the growth of corporate power and other important organizational trends in global capitalism, and reviews the organization and strategies of unions and the left, searching for new routes to socialism.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$36.00 pb, 302 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-553-8, available as ebook)

CLASS WARRIOR: THE SELECTED WORKS OF E. T. KINGSLEY

E. T. Kingsley, edited and introduced by Benjamin Isitt and Ravi Malhotra
After having both legs amputated as a result of an injury working as a brakeman in 1890, Kingsley joined a popular socialist movement and eventually founded the Socialist Party of Canada in Vancouver. This collection of his writing and speeches shows his tremendous impact on Canadian political discourse.

(Athabasca University Press, \$34.99 pb, 306 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77829-004-6, available as ebook)

COMPARING POLITICAL REGIMES: A THEMATIC INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS, FOURTH EDITION

Alan Siaroff
This fourth edition explains institutional differences within democracies and autocracies respectively, including how regimes evolve in key countries and how this change is incremental. It modifies the conceptual focus regarding some features of democracy, expands on variations in autocracies, and includes a new chapter on

the historical evolution of democracy.

(University of Toronto Press, 416 pages, with figures, tables, \$125.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0777-0; \$62.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2536-1; available as ebook)

CONTAINING DIVERSITY: CANADA AND THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Ethel Tungohan, and Christina Gabriel
The authors assess the Canadian government's policies toward refugees and asylum seekers, economic migrants, family-class migrants, temporary foreign workers, and multiculturalism to show the various contradictory practices in effect.
(University of Toronto Press, 368 pages, with figures, tables, \$125.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-0905-1; \$68.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4426-0904-4; available as ebook)

COUNTRY OF FOXES: THREE GERMS AND THE TAKING OF TERRITORY

Baijayanta Mukhopadhyay
This story of land theft through the course of three diseases – syphilis, smallpox, and tuberculosis – exposes how colonialism facilitates illness and profits from it.
(Fernwood Publishing, \$28.00 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-552-1, available as ebook)

CRITICAL DIGITAL PEDAGOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Edited by Suzan Köseğlu, George Veletsianos, and Chris Rowell
A passionate reflection about the need to humanize the digital education environment, this collection of essays introduces new concepts to

the field such as shared learning and trust, critical consciousness, change, and hope. (Athabasca University Press, \$29.99 pb, 212 pages, figures, table, ISBN: 978-1-77829-001-5, available as ebook)

DIGITAL (IN)JUSTICE IN THE SMART CITY

Edited by Debra Mackinnon, Ryan Burns, and Victoria Fast

This book explores relations between smartness and social justice, and questions whether working toward more just and sustainable cities requires that we look beyond the limitations of "smartness" altogether.

(University of Toronto Press, 464 pages, with b/w illustrations, figures, maps, \$110.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2715-0; \$49.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2716-7; available as ebook)

DISARM, DEFUND, DISMANTLE: POLICE ABOLITION IN CANADA

Edited by Shiri Pasternak, Kevin Walby, and Abby Stadnyk

Together, these essays by a range of scholars and activists imagine a world

in which police power is dissolved and in which it is possible to respond to distress and harm with assistance and care.

(Between the Lines, \$23.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77113-592-4)

THE END OF THIS WORLD: CLIMATE JUSTICE IN SO-CALLED CANADA

Angele Alook, Emily Eaton, David Gray-Donald, Joël Laforest, Crystal Lameman, and Bronwen Tucker

Drawing on their work in Indigenous activism, the labour movement, youth climate campaigns, community-engaged scholarship, and independent journalism, the six authors show that a just transition from fossil fuels cannot succeed without the dismantling of settler capitalism in Canada.

(Between the Lines, \$25.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77113-612-9)

FOR A BETTER WORLD: THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE AND THE WORKERS' REVOLT

Edited by James Naylor, Rhonda L. Hinthner, and Jim Mochoruk

Probing the meaning of the Winnipeg General Strike in innovative ways,

this book interrogates types of commemoration and remembrance, current legacies of the Strike, and its ongoing influence, and demonstrates that the Strike continues to mobilize and help people think about collective action in the future.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 392 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-299-1, available as ebook)

FREQUENTLY ASKED WHITE QUESTIONS

Ajay Parasram and Alex Khasnabish

With humour and compassion, Parasram and Khasnabish draw on live sessions of their monthly series *Safe Spaces for White Questions* to answer the 10 most common questions asked of them by people wanting to learn about racial privilege, and to offer relatable advice and a practical entry point into conversations of race.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$18.00 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-557-6, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36


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YOUR NEXT GREAT READ




A STUNNING BACKDROP:
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By Mary Graham

978-1-77385-393-2 (Paperback)
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THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION AT NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

Edited by Naomi Krogman
with Apryl Bergstrom

The editors of and contributors to this book advocate for a more integrated approach to teaching sustainability in order to help students address the most pressing problems of the world, embrace experimentation, and foster more meaningful involvement with the communities in which universities are located.
(University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-630, available as ebook)

GIFTS FROM AMIN: UGANDAN ASIAN REFUGEES IN CANADA

Shezan Muhammedi

Building on archival research and oral histories, Muhammedi documents the resettlement of 8000 Ugandans of South Asian descent in Canada in 1972, which marked the first time Canada accepted a large group of predominantly Muslim, non-European, non-white refugees.
(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 296 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-283-0, available as ebook)

HAS POPULISM WON? THE WAR ON LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Daniel Drache and Marc D. Froese

Populist leaders – like Trump and Putin – are rising to the top of political power across the world. Drache and Froese make a compelling analysis of this trend and reveal what it will take to turn it around.
(ECW Press, \$24.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-705-2, available as ebook)

INDIGENOUS RESURGENCE IN AN AGE OF RECONCILIATION

Edited by Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiiik Stark, Aimée Craft, and Hōkūlani K. Aikau

This book explores how Indigenous communities are enacting Indigenous resurgence in this era of reconciliation, challenging narrow interpretations of indigeneity and resurgence, and asking readers to critically analyze how settler

colonial framings have infiltrated ways of relating.

(University of Toronto Press, 256 pages, with b/w illustrations, \$85.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-4459-1; \$34.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-4460-7; available as ebook)

LAUGHING WITH THE TRICKSTER: ON SEX, DEATH, AND ACCORDIONS

Tomson Highway

The CBC Massey Lectures for 2022 are being presented by none other than the trickster himself, Tomson Highway, who brings his signature irreverence to an exploration of five themes central to the human condition: language, creation, sex and gender, humour, and death. Highway offers personal anecdotes and Trickster stories as guides through crises such as climate change, economic disparity, racial intolerance, and general unhappiness.
(House of Anansi Press, \$22.99 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1123-9)

LESSONS IN LEGITIMACY: COLONIALISM, CAPITALISM, AND THE RISE OF STATE SCHOOLING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sean Carleton

This book examines schooling in British Columbia between 1849 and 1930 for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people – public schools, Indian Day Schools, and Indian Residential Schools – in one analytical frame, showing how the different school systems trained people to take up and accept unequal roles in the emerging social order.
(UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 294 pages, b/w photos, maps, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6807-5, available as ebook)

MAKING MUSKOKA: TOURISM, RURAL IDENTITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY, 1870–1920

Andrew Watson

Muskoka underwent a profound transition at the turn of the 20th century, when settler colonialism upended Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee communities, and tourism became an integral feature of life. This book uncovers the experience of rural communities shaped by tourism and the global shift toward fossil fuels.
(UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 242 pages, b/w photos, maps, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6783-2, available as ebook)

MAKING WONDERFUL: IDEOLOGICAL ROOTS OF OUR ECO-CATASTROPHE

Martin M. Tweedale

Tweedale tells how the Western doctrine of progress, coupled with a faith in the capacity of science and technology to improve human life, energized the economic expansion that has led to ecological disaster.
(University of Alberta Press, \$49.99 pb, 432 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-624-2, available as ebook)

NATIONAL LITERATURE IN MULTINATIONAL STATES

Edited by Albert Braz and Paul D. Morris

The contributors to this collection interrogate concepts and manifestations of nationalism in the context of literary production while evaluating the place of national literatures in multinational states at a time when social unity and political agreement have never been more elusive.
(University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-607-5, available as ebook)

NĒHIYAWĒTĀN KĪKINĀHK / SPEAKING CREE IN THE HOME: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Belinda Daniels and Andrea Custer, illustrations by Lana Whiskeyjack

This hands-on guide for parents and caregivers takes them through methods for language learning, the basics of reading Cree and Standard Roman Orthography, pronunciation of vowels, engaging language-learning games, and examples of high-frequency words and phrases that can be incorporated into daily routines.
(University of Regina Press, 122 pages, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-903-7; \$19.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-900-6, available as ebook)

OPIMŌTĒWINA WĪNA KAPAGAMAWĀT WĪTIGŌWA / JOURNEYS OF THE ONE TO STRIKE THE WETIGO

Ken Carriere

Depicting a certain Indigenous lifestyle that existed in northern Saskatchewan long after the Fur Trade era, this book is a first-hand account of a Swampy Cree boy's experiences helping his father with muskrat trapping, commercial fishing, and

guiding hunters in the upstream region of the Saskatchewan River Delta.
(University of Regina Press, 328 pages, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-907-5; \$24.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-904-4, available as ebook)

THE PETROLEUM PAPERS: INSIDE THE FAR-RIGHT CONSPIRACY TO COVER UP CLIMATE CHANGE

Geoff Dembicki

Drawing from confidential oil industry documents spanning decades, this work of investigative reporting reveals the story of how the American oil companies that founded the tar sands in Alberta ignored warnings about climate devastation as early as 1959.

(Greystone Books, \$34.95 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77164-891-2, available as ebook)

PIVOT OR PIROUETTE? THE 1993 CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTION

Tom Flanagan

This book covers both the backstory and the aftermath of the strangest election in Canadian history, as told by an insider who was involved in the events before, during, and after the ballots were cast. New parties shake up the system but are eventually absorbed into it.

(UBC Press, \$24.95 pb, 232 pages, with b/w photos, charts, maps, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6683-5, available as ebook)

RECIPES AND RECIPROCITY: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN RESEARCH

Edited by Hannah Tait Neufeld and Elizabeth Finnis

Drawing from research contexts within Canada, Cuba, India, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, and Japan, contributors consider the ways that food and research intersect for researchers, participants, and communities, highlighting practical and experiential elements of academic fieldwork.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 240 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-291-5, available as ebook)

REVIVAL AND CHANGE: THE 1957 AND 1958 DUFFENBAKER ELECTIONS

John C. Courtney

This is a compelling account of the elections, the government and opposition

they produced, the issues that defined the government, and the era's legacy in Canadian politics and society.
(UBC Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages, with b/w photos, tables, maps, charts ISBN: 978-0-7748-6664-4, available as ebook)

RIGHTS AND THE CITY: PROBLEMS, PROGRESS, AND PRACTICE

Edited by Sandeep Agrawa

Exploring the tensions that exist between different concepts of rights, the contributors expose the paradoxes that planners and municipal governments face when attempting not only to combat discriminatory practices, but also to advance a human rights agenda.

(University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-636-6, available as ebook)

THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES: A FAMILY'S FIRST CENTURY IN CANADA

Michael Andruff

This sweeping family history chronicles the journey of a group of Russian refugees who settled in rural Alberta in 1924. Facing obstacles and opportunities, and reinventing themselves time and again, this family hoped that each succeeding generation would have an easier life than those that came before.

(Heritage House Publishing, \$26.95 pb, 288 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77203-419-6)

SEX AND THE MARRIED GIRL: HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGE AND THE BODY IN POSTWAR CANADA

Heather Stanley

This book examines how two interrelated and dominant groups in Canada – medical professionals and church leaders – used married heterosexual female sexuality as a lever to rebuild the Canadian family and the state itself after the Second World War.
(University of Toronto Press, 224 pages, with b/w illustrations, \$70.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0119-8; \$29.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2114-1; available as ebook)

SIDE EFFECTS: HOW LEFT-BRAIN RIGHT-BRAIN DIFFERENCES SHAPE EVERYDAY BEHAVIOUR

Lorin J. Elias

This book delves into how lateral biases in our brains influence everyday behaviour – such as how we cradle a newborn or which way we tilt our head when kissing – and how being aware of these biases can be to our advantage.

(Dundurn Press, \$26.99 pb, 248 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4597-4755-5, available as ebook)

SOLIDARITY BEYOND BARS: UNIONIZING PRISON LABOUR

Jordan House and Asaf Rashid

This first book to examine prison labour in Canada argues that unionizing incarcerated workers is critical for the labour movement, to negotiate changes to working conditions, as well as for prison justice and negotiating power dynamics within prisons.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$26.00 pb, 180 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-561-3, available as ebook)

A STUNNING BACKDROP: ALBERTA IN THE MOVIES

Mary Graham

Beautifully illustrated with archival photos, this book tells the story of Alberta's film history, illuminating the deep importance of the province to Hollywood, and exploring the often friendly partnerships between filmmakers and Indigenous communities.

(University of Calgary Press, \$54.99 pb, 344 pages, 189 images, ISBN: 978-1-77385-393-2, available as ebook)

10 DAYS THAT SHAPED MODERN CANADA

Aaron W. Hughes

Ten episodes – such as the enactment of the War Measures Act, the École Polytechnique Massacre, The Tragically Hip's farewell concert, and the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's executive summary – offer an account of the political, social, cultural, and demographic forces that have shaped contemporary Canada.

(University of Alberta Press, \$27.99 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-632-7, available as ebook)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

**TRAUMA, SPIRITUALITY, AND
POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH IN
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE**

Edited by Heather M. Boynton
and Jo-Ann Vis

Addressing the impact of trauma-related events and emphasizing the importance of spirituality, this book offers social workers insights on assessment and provides practical strategies on how spiritual practices can be integrated into psychotherapeutic interventions at various levels of social work practice. (University of Toronto Press, 206 pages, \$75.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-4394-5; \$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-4395-2; available as ebook)

**UNSETTLING COLONIALISM IN THE
CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Edited by Vicki Chartrand
and Josephine Savarese

By examining the ways in which the Canadian justice system continues to sanction overtly discriminatory and racist practices, the contributors to this collection demonstrate how historical patterns of privilege and domination are extended and reinforced. (Athabasca University Press, \$32.99 pb, 340 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77829-003-9, available as ebook)

**UPHOLDING INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC
RELATIONSHIPS: NEHIYAWAK NARRATIVES**

Shalene Wuttunee Jobin

Drawing on the knowledge systems of the nehiyawak (Plains Cree), this book makes two central arguments: economic exploitation was the initial and most enduring relationship between newcomers and Indigenous Peoples; and Indigenous economic relationships are constitutive, that is, connections to the land, water, and other human and non-human beings form us as individuals and as peoples. (UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 232 pages, with figures, b/w photos, map, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6510-4, available as ebook)

**VIOLENCE, IMAGINATION, AND RESISTANCE:
SOCIO-LEGAL INTERROGATIONS OF POWER**

Edited by Mariful Alam, Patrick
Dwyer, and Katrin Roots

The contributors to this volume explore how to deconstruct law's power, how to expose the violence the law produces, and

how to identify modes of resistance that have transformative potential. (Athabasca University Press, \$29.99 pb, 204 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77829-002-2, available as ebook)

**WALKING TOGETHER: THE
FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS CHILD
WELFARE ON THE PRAIRIES**

Edited by Jason Albert, Dorothy Badry,
Don Fuchs, Peter Choate, Marilyn
Bennett, and H. Monty Montgomery
Centring Indigenous knowledge and working to decolonize child welfare, accomplished Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars from the Prairie provinces address the over-representation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system, the unmet recommendations of the TRC, the connections between colonialism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, the impact of Bill C-92, and more. (University of Regina Press, 288 pages, \$89.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88977-893-1; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88977-890-0; available as ebook)

**WE GO WHERE THEY GO: THE STORY
OF THE ANTI-RACIST ACTION**

Shannon Clay, Lady, Kristin Schwartz,
and Michael Staudenmaier

Based on extensive interviews with dozens of Anti-Racist Action participants, this book tells the story of the ARA from within, giving voice to those skinheads and punks in the late 1980s who fought back when they found their communities invaded by white supremacists and neo-Nazis. (University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-908-2, available as ebook)

**WHAT NUDISM EXPOSES: AN
UNCONVENTIONAL HISTORY
OF POSTWAR CANADA**

Mary-Ann Shantz

This readable book explains the perspectives and questions the assumptions of the nudist movement that took root in postwar Canada, showing that what nudism exposes is how the body figures at the intersection of nature and

culture, the individual and the social, the private and the public. (UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 288 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6270-7, available as ebook)

**WORLDS AT STAKE: CLIMATE
POLITICS, IDEOLOGY, AND JUSTICE**

Aaron Saad

Saad presents a survey of political perspectives and ethical arguments about how we should respond to the climate crisis, arranging them into two broad categories – “system preserving” and “system changing” frameworks. (Fernwood Publishing, \$27.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-564-4, available as ebook)

**BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR
& ESSAYS**

**LIGHTS TO GUIDE ME HOME: A JOURNEY
OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN LIFE, LOVE,
ADVENTURE, AND PARENTING**

Meghan J. Ward

This debut memoir is a captivating travelogue, taking readers on a trip around the world – to Costa Rica, Nepal, Rapa Nui, Ireland, Malta, Baffin Island, New Zealand, and more – while chronicling Ward's life transitions, including her marriage to a travel and landscape photographer and their parenting experiences. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-359-1, available as ebook)

MAKING LOVE WITH THE LAND

Joshua Whitehead

In 10 innovative and poetic essays, Whitehead explores and illuminates the complex moment through which we are living, in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are navigating new and old ideas about the land and how it has shaped our ideas, histories, words, and bodies. (Knopf-PRH, \$29.95 hc, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-7886-8, available as ebook and audiobook)

Writer-centric publisher aims for passion, not prizes – though they’ve collected both

Signature Editions advocates for indie sellers, supports both new and established writers

by Brock Peters

Since 1986, Signature Editions has been busily discovering and promoting new voices in Canadian literature. While much has changed since the press’s conception, its commitment to publishing a variety of quality writing has never wavered.



Karen Haughian

Signature, originally called Nuage Editions, was founded as a publishing collective by 16 students attending a publishing class at Concordia University. The press soon coalesced into a core of three visionaries, and in 1992 Karen Haughian became the sole owner and publisher.

In 1995, Haughian married Manitoba publisher Gordon Shillingford and the press moved from Montreal to

Winnipeg, where it is currently based. The name was changed to Signature Editions soon afterwards. As of today, the press has over 200 titles in their active backlist – what Haughian considers “an embarrassment of riches” resulting from her publishing house having become firmly established in the Canadian literary scene.

“Because I came at publishing from the writing side, the press has always been very writer-centric,” says Haughian. Through Signature Editions, she is committed to presenting both new and established writers, with a focus on helping authors develop their craft and expand their careers. Supporting her locally are editor Douglas Whiteway, marketing assistant Ashley Brekelmans, and design firm Doowah Design, as well as other freelance and contract workers.

The results speak for themselves: titles from Signature Editions have won and been shortlisted for Canadian

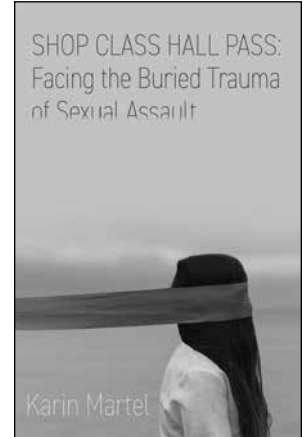
and international awards alike, including all of the Manitoba Book Awards, the Governor General’s, and the Giller. Most recently, Joel Robert Ferguson’s *The Lost Cafeteria* received the 2022 Lansdowne Prize for Poetry, while Lori Cayer’s poetry collection *Searching for Signal* was a finalist for the 2022 McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award.

But Haughian is quick to point out that awards aren’t a definitive metric for success; writers don’t write for awards – “they write because they are compelled to.” And likewise, Signature Editions “publishes them because we are irresistibly drawn into their stories.”

Signature’s 2022 releases come from authors across the country. Fiction titles include the third Roxanne Calloway mystery from Gimli’s Raye Anderson, a novel from Vancouver’s Paul Headrick, and a stand-alone mystery from Montreal’s Louise Carson. Poetry from Genni Gunn (Vancouver) and Carolyn Marie Souaid (Montreal), and non-fiction by Saskatoon’s Karin Martel will round out their offerings this year.

With the onset of COVID-19, Signature Editions was forced to adapt to a quickly changing book industry. Supply chain issues, ballooning shipping rates, and the shift to virtual events were at the forefront of a slate of global challenges, but Haughian believes a solution can only be found at the grassroots level.

“What I’d really like to see is people shopping local,” she says. The unrestricted activity of large multinational companies – both publishers and booksellers – represents, to Haughian, the biggest threat to independent Canadian publishers, authors, and retailers. “At the end of the day,” she says, “the multinationals’ profits are spirited out of the country.”



Haughian is quick to point out that awards aren’t a definitive metric for success; writers don’t write for awards – “they write because they are compelled to.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

Advocating for independent Canadian publishing is nothing new to Haughian. Throughout her career, she has served on boards and committees of publishing organizations ranging from the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers to the Literary Press Group of Canada, and views such service as both an immense privilege and an essential duty. “This work,” she says, “introduces you to ideas, approaches, and practices that you would not otherwise be exposed to.”

Haughian highly recommends that young people in the publishing industry become involved in these local associations, noting the many mutually beneficial results. For her part, it is her goal to bring more young people on board at Signature Editions to join their talented team and help “keep things fresh.”

Naturally, this ethos of advocacy extends into her vision for Signature Editions. An early adopter of digital technology, the press is now working to convert much of their backlist to accessible ebooks with the help of federally funded conversion projects.

“I am really happy to see the focus on the issue of accessibility in the last number of years,” says Haughian. Having experienced struggles in helping her father find accessible reading materials in his later years, she has “a kind of personal investment in making this happen.”

Earlier in the pandemic when many people were experiencing financial stress, Haughian offered Signature Editions ebooks free of charge. This 2020 initiative saw 80 Signature titles made available to help alleviate social isolation.

In adopting accessible technology, advocating for local involvement, and challenging globalism with high-quality Canadian literature, Signature Editions represents the best of forward-thinking Prairie publishing. But in navigating these ambitions, Haughian is careful to remember the passion that drives it all. “Working with talented authors remains the central joy.” 🌿

THE LAST UNSUITABLE MAN

Louise Carson

When a struggling mystery writer is invited to fly across the country all expenses paid with an eccentric but very wealthy woman who needs assistance transporting her cats, she welcomes the free ride to visit her beloved brother and sister-in-law. However, what begins as a strange trip soon turns deadly.

(Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-15-9)

SHOP CLASS HALL PASS: FACING THE BURIED TRAUMA OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Karin Martel

Karin Martel is a Special Constable who deals with 911 crisis calls in the Saskatoon Police Service. During a routine session with the department therapist, she discovers that long-hidden

trauma is at the root of her PTSD symptoms. *Shop Class Hall Pass* recounts her road to recovery.

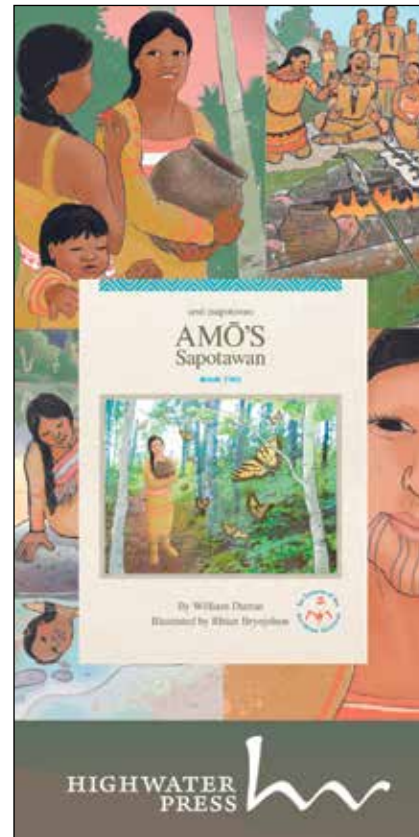
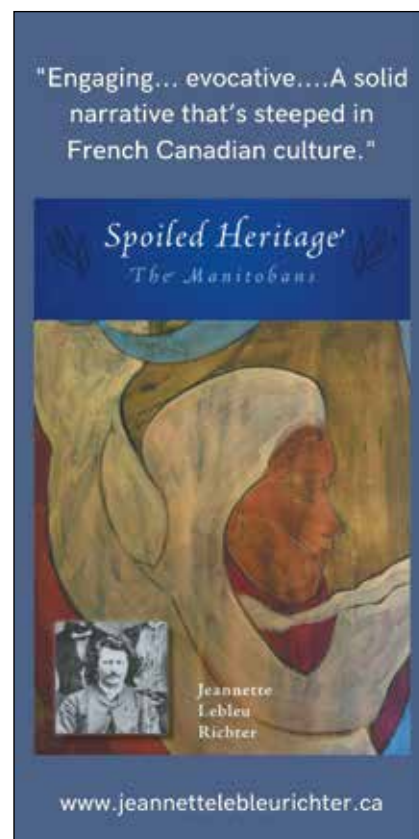
(Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-18-0)

THIS SIDE OF LIGHT: SELECTED POEMS (1995–2020)

Carolyn Marie Souaid

This selection of poems from Souaid’s seven published books of poetry – *Swimming into the Light*, *Snow Formations*, *Satie’s Sad Piano*, *Paper Oranges*, *October*, *This World We Invented*, and *The Eleventh Hour* – was edited by Arleen Paré.

(Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-17-3)



Tale highlights importance of school, family supports for neurodivergent kids

Novel aims to be relatable to any kids who are struggling, fosters self-acceptance

by Amanda Sanders

THE U-NIQUE LOU FOX

Jodi Carmichael

Pajama Press

\$23.95 hc, 240 pages

ISBN: 978-12-77278-258-5

Winnipeg-based author Jodi Carmichael is back with a new middle grade novel, *The U-nique Lou Fox*. Ten-year-old Lou lives with ADHD and dyslexia, and as a result, school does not come easily for her. Like many neurodivergent children, Lou often finds herself in hot water for drifting off task and losing focus in class, and this is very frustrating for her, to say the least.

Carmichael's inspiration for this novel came from her own experience as well as her family's. She explains, "Lou is a combination of my own school experiences being undiagnosed with ADHD, anxiety, and dysgraphia, and those of several family members who have ADHD, dyslexia, or dyscalculia."

Being surrounded by neurodivergent people in her life gave Carmichael plenty of knowledge and experience to work with, but Lou came to her while she was writing another story.

"She just started 'chatting' away, complaining to me about her exceedingly long name," says Carmichael. "The lines she first uttered were 'A 36-letter name is a

curse for someone who can't spell and finds reading next to impossible. Being dyslexic is no joke. Nor is the word *dyslexic* for someone who is.'" That 36-letter name is Louisa Elizabeth Fitzhenry-O'Shaughnessy, a doozy, which is why she prefers Lou Fox.

A scene where Lou receives the results of a spelling test followed, and "I knew I had a new compelling character who had an important story to tell."

Carmichael's muse for Lou was her mother. "She has ADHD, dyslexia, and dyscalculia," she says. "When she was in third grade, back in 1948, she was kicked out of math class and told she couldn't return until she could learn math."

Outraged, the author's grandmother pulled her daughter out of school and put her in a better suited learning environment at a private school. At age 50, Carmichael's mother earned her master's degree, thereby, as Carmichael says, "proving that a learning disorder doesn't equal an inability to learn. It means there may be struggles – both large and small – along the way, but with proper support, great academic achievements can be made."

In this novel, Lou's parents provide the necessary support and have full confidence in her ability to thrive. They recognize that while Lou may

struggle in areas such as reading and spelling, she has talents in the arts – she is working on writing a play and she is very skilled in drawing.

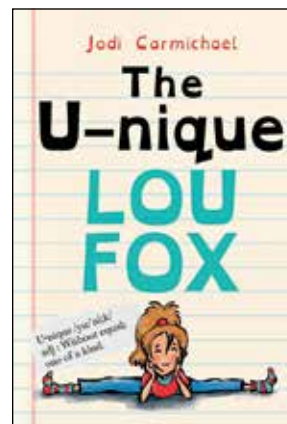
"I wanted to show that even though Lou has many struggles, she has strengths – incredible talents!" says Carmichael. "She is good enough – complete enough – just as she is. Self-acceptance leads to self-confidence, and it's crucial as kids grow older."

In addition to the importance of representation and ensuring that kids like Lou "take centre stage and see themselves reflected in literature," Carmichael adds that all children have moments where they struggle in school, if not academically, then maybe socially or in sports. Or maybe their home life is stressful, making it hard to focus in class or make friends.

"I hope that by reading about Lou," she says, "they connect with her journey of self-acceptance and they embrace all that they are." 🌿



Jodi Carmichael



Tale of the raven offers Gitxsan teaching, perspective of interdependence

Author hopes to grow 'sense of awareness and concern for one's home' for readers of all ages

by Emelia Fournier

THE RAVEN MOTHER,

Book 6, Mothers of Xsan

Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson)

Illustrated by Natasha Donovan

HighWater-Portage & Main Press

\$24.95 hc, 32 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77492-003-9



In the midst of a climate crisis, it has never been more important to understand how ecosystems work. That's why Hetxw'ms Gyetxw, or Brett D. Huson, of the Gitxsan Nation in northwestern British Columbia, decided to write engaging and informative books about the creatures on his home territory.

The sixth title in Huson's award-winning Mothers of Xsan series, *The Raven Mother* follows Nox Gaak throughout the seasons in the Gitxsan Nation. Readers discover how she cares for her chicks with the help of her lifelong partner, how ravens' hoarding and scavenging help ecosystems thrive, and that ravens are playful, loving creatures.

"Our people deeply revere the raven because they are brilliant. At one time, we even had some basic dialogue with ravens. Those that lived nearby would learn our words and ask for different foods or even play," says Huson.

Huson, who works with the Prairie Climate Centre at the University of Winnipeg, says that sharing his People's knowledge with children is key.

"A rudimentary understanding of the interconnectedness of everything around us is the perfect place to instill a sense of awareness and concern for one's home. I wanted to try and show a little bit of what I was learning outside of public school when I was a child," he says.

The illustrator of the series, Natasha Donovan, is a Métis artist who grew up in Vancouver, and who now

lives by the Nooksack River in Washington State. Her artwork brings Huson's storytelling to life through bold hues and the dynamic style of graphic novel illustrations.

"I want to convey a sense of how vibrant and alive the earth is, that it's not a static backdrop to human life, but a living, breathing, dynamic entity," she says.

While the Mothers of Xsan series is targeted toward children, people of all ages can learn through Huson's work, especially now when human threats to the environment are more and more evident.

"Many young people and people from all walks of life are now placing ourselves in a separate bubble where we create human-based policies to benefit our needs, which is not doing our ecosystems any good," says Huson. "I

wanted to try and offer us a change of perspective, as climate change isn't the problem; it is merely a symptom of the problem, which is human behaviour."

Donovan also stresses the value of the series for all readers.

"It's important for humans of all ages to see themselves as part of a whole, a network of interdependent species; when you see yourself through that lens, it's easier to understand the relationships you have with other creatures, and the respect and love that is owed to all of them," she says.

Huson plans to showcase more animals with whom the Gitxsan share the land. He hopes the Gitxsan teachings can help people reposition themselves in the world.

"Our behaviours are changing the world in a wrong way, and we need to change this if our children and subsequent generations [are to] survive far into the future," says Huson. "The animals are each significantly tied to every single ecosystem. They are all part of the balance. Removing a species is similar to removing a piece of you."

"How will we exist if we keep giving a part of ourselves up?" 🐾



Hetxw'ms Gyetxw
(Brett D. Huson)



Natasha Donovan

DEREK FLYNN

MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

BOARD BOOK

KINDNESS IS A GOLDEN HEART

Jessica Kluthe, illustrated by Charlene Chua
Readers follow a young child who is shown, from morning to bedtime, the many ways to demonstrate kindness – to their parent, their cat, and themselves – such as helping, sharing, listening, and resting.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 bb, 20 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3285-5, available as ebook)

PICTURE BOOKS

AMŌ'S SAPOTAWAN, BOOK 2, THE SIX SEASONS OF THE ASINISKAW İTHINIWAK

William Dumas, illustrated

by Rhian Brynjolson

Amō's sapotawan ceremony is fast approaching, and she must choose her special talent or mithikowisiwin that will define her life path. Will she choose making willow baskets? or making birchbark containers and plates? or making

pottery? How will she know what is right for her?

(HighWater Press, \$33.00 hc, 60 pages,

ISBN: 978-1-55379-929-0)

A CABIN CHRISTMAS

Glynnis Hood, illustrated by Ardis Cheng

The girl greets the forest and wetland animals every morning and watches as they prepare for winter. When the girl and her family are faced with an unexpected challenge, the animal community comes to the rescue and makes it the best Christmas ever!

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 hc,

32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-583-0)

DANCING WITH OUR ANCESTORS, BOOK 4, SK'AD'A STORIES SERIES

Sara Florence Davidson and Robert

Davidson, illustrated by Janine Gibbons

Readers are transported to the excitement of a potlatch in Hyدابurg, Alaska – Sara Flora Davidson's last memory of dancing with her late brother. Guests come from all

over to witness this bittersweet celebration of Haida culture and community.

(HighWater Press, \$21.95 hc, 40 pages,

ISBN: 978-1-77492-024-4)

GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT, VICTORIA BEACH

Rae St. Clair Bridgman

Inspired by a jackrabbit seen at dusk at Victoria Beach, Manitoba, this delightfully illustrated ABC book written in rhyming couplets takes readers through all four seasons at the beach, observing objects, animals, the environment, and feelings.

(FriesenPress, 120 pages, \$31.99 hc,

ISBN: 978-1-03-913270-2; \$18.99 pb,

ISBN: 978-1-03-913269-6; available as ebook)

ICE FISHING IN ST. LAURENT

Gisèle Reynolds

Originally published in French, this story follows Lucille, a young girl from the big city, as she visits her Métis cousin in St. Laurent and rides on a Bombardier and goes ice fishing.

(Vidacom Publications, \$11.95 pb, 36 pages,

ISBN: 978-1-77461-009-1)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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KĀ-ĀCIWĪKĪCĪK / THE MOVE

Doris George and Don K. Philpot,
illustrated by Alyssa Koski

This testament to the beauty of the Cree language and the resilience of the Chemawawin First Nation is a bilingual story of two Cree Elders who are forced to move from their ancestral homeland to Easterville. At first a barren place, eventually, through the incorporation of traditions, their new community springs to life.

(Heritage House, 48 pages, \$22.95 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77203-409-7; \$14.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77203-428-8, available as ebook)

NIGHT LUNCH

Eric Fan, illustrated by Dena Seiferling

The Night Owl food cart draws hungry animals of the night, such as a fox, a badger, bats, and little possums. But the hungry street sweeper Mouse gets special treatment and a delicious meal before the sun comes up, in this glowingly illustrated story. (Tundra Books-Penguin Random House, \$24.99 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-7057-2, available as ebook)

THE PICKLE IN GRANDMA'S FRIDGE

Elena Bentley, illustrated by Tonia Laird
Annie's grandma seems very unconcerned about the fuzzy pickle in her fridge, even when Annie warns her that it could grow legs. What if Annie is right? (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$16.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-85-7)

RETURNING TO THE YAKOUN RIVER, BOOK 3, THE SK'AD'A STORIES SERIES

Sara Florence Davidson and Robert Davidson, illustrated by Janine Gibbons
Every summer, a Haida girl and her family travel up the Yakoun River on Haida Gwaii, following the salmon. While their father fishes, the girl and her brother learn from the land and from Tsinii (Grandfather). (HighWater Press, \$21.95 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-021-3)

A SILLY WILLY CHRISTMAS

Brenda Redman, illustrated
by Wendi Nordell

Everyone in a very big extended family goes to Gramma's for Christmas, and the festivities get very silly in this vividly illustrated book that emphasizes

the importance of multi-generational connections.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-98-2)

STILL THIS LOVE GOES ON

Buffy Sainte-Marie, illustrated by Julie Flett
Academy Award-winning singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie has adapted her song of the same name to create this stunningly illustrated celebration of Indigenous experience, which is a love letter to seasons, place, community, and traditions. The book includes sheet music.

(Greystone Kids-Greystone Books, \$22.95 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77164-807-3, available as ebook)

WAKE UP, JACOB!

Neil Sawatzky

Grandparents and grandchildren have many things in common, as this story of the daily activities of Jacob and his grandfather shows – activities such as playing games with friends, reading good books, exercising, and napping. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-45-1)

WELCOME, DARK

Charis St. Pierre, illustrated by Rachel Wada
Through evocative and haunting illustrations of birds, animals, and plants, and through poetic images of sounds and renewal, this bedtime book beautifully portrays the wildness and wonder of night. (Orca Book Publishers, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3131-5, available as ebook)

WHAT IF YOU COULD?

Lynne Harley, illustrated by Kiram Akram

A little caterpillar has big dreams of flying and twirling in the sun and enjoying nectar from colourful flowers. But he has to decide which inner voice to listen to – the kind, supportive voice that says to believe in his dreams or the mean, dismissive one that warns him about change? (Shadowpaw Press, 40 pages, \$26.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-989398-41-8; \$16.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-989398-46-3; available as ebook)

FOR EARLY YEARS READERS**DOO DOO DOGS: VISITORS FROM OUTER SPACE**

Bill and Jocelyn Hutchinson

This second title in the series of humorous chapter books shows the spirit of friendship and togetherness that comes into play when a couple of alien visitors are stranded on Earth and need help from Jessie (the Doo Doo dog) and her friends to get back home.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 9781778690006)

LARK STEALS THE SHOW

Natasha Deen, illustrated by Marcus Cutler

In Book 6 of the Lark Ba Detective chapter book series, Lark and her twin brother Connor team up with friends Sophie, Kate, and Loi to solve the mystery of who would steal Kyle's painting from the new exhibit at the local art gallery and set up Franklin to take the blame.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$7.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3157-5, available as ebook)

NATURE'S APPRENTICES: THE MAGIC OF THE PEATLANDS

Elizabeth Bekolay, illustrated
by Jennifer Lynn Becker

Illustrated in full colour, this magical adventure explores the flora and fauna of the northern Canadian peatlands. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, 64 pages, \$29.95 hc, ISBN: 978-1-988783-??-?; \$19.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-988783-??-?)

THE PANCAKE PROBLEM, WEENIE FEATURING FRANK AND BEANS, BOOK 2

Maureen Fergus, illustrated
by Alexandra Bye

This second in the graphic novel series sees Weenie the wiener dog – together with his friends Frank the cat and Beans the guinea pig – famished and craving pancakes, and willing to go to great lengths to get them, even though he knows he shouldn't be bothering Bob, his human, early in the morning.

(Tundra Books-Penguin Random House, \$16.99 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-6794-7, available as ebook)

FOR MIDDLE YEARS READERS

THE BASKETBALL GAME

Hart Snider, illustrated by Sean Covernton
Adapted from an NFB animated short, this graphic novel tells the true story of how the students of anti-Semitic teacher Jim Keegstra were invited to a Jewish summer camp for a day of fun and fellowship to help combat Keegstra's lies. The book includes an introduction, follow-up news items, and study questions.
(Firefly Books, \$19.95 hc, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-0-2281-0391-2)

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT: HOW 25 INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS FOUND THEIR DREAM JOBS

Colleen Nelson and Kathie MacIsaac, illustrated by Scot Ritchie
Showcasing 25 people with jobs ranging from mathematician to NHL scout, from gaming expert to veterinarian, this inspiring non-fiction book aims to show middle school readers the great variety of possibilities in the world of work. Each profile includes advice or "Pro Tips," ideas to try out right now, related jobs, and mini-profiles of other inspiring individuals in the field.
(Pajama Press, \$24.95 hc, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77278-228-8)

THE LAST GREEN DRAGON

Rud Verhagen
This story of an unlikely friendship between a young dragon and a little witch shows the strength and encouragement they give each other as they seek to find where they belong.
(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 196 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-91-8)

STAY

Katherine Lawrence
This novel in verse tells the story of a family in crisis, through the thoughts and actions of 11-year-old Millie, whose parents decide to separate. When her father moves back home, she is elated until she finds out he's back because he has been diagnosed with cancer.
(Shadowpaw Press, \$12.95 pb, 130 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-37-1, available as ebook)

FOR YA READERS

BACKBONE OF NIGHT, THE AUTOMATIC AGE GMB Chomichuk

This powerfully illustrated sequel to *The Automatic Age* sees Kerion, who is part automatic, and his son, Barry, continue to navigate a world where the autovolts have taken over, but now they have a destination, a possible escape to a world with other humans: the Backbone of Night, a tower that reaches to the stars.
(Yellow Dog-Great Plains, \$14.95 pb, 92 pages, with b/w images throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77337-079-8, available as ebook)

A BLANKET OF BUTTERFLIES, THE SPIRIT OF DENENDEH, VOLUME 1

Richard Van Camp, illustrated by Scott B. Henderson, colours by Donovan Yaciuk
This new full-colour edition of the Eisner Award-nominated adventure includes additional cultural context about the experiences of Indigenous and Japanese-Canadian people during the Second World War, and launches a new series of YA graphic novels.
(HighWater Press, \$21.95 pb, 56 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-040-4)

THE EMIR'S FALCON

Matt Hughes
In this adventure novel, the lives of three young people – Bernie, a volunteer at a wildlife facility that breeds peregrine falcons; Nasur, the son of a Persian Gulf emir studying at the University of Alberta; and Rosie, the daughter of a Métis trapper – converge when a diplomatic gift leads them all to the Swan Hills wilderness, which just happens to be the territory of a hungry and dangerous grizzly bear.
(Shadowpaw Press, \$18.99 pb, 198 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989398-31-9, available as ebook and audiobook)

FINAL CUT

Marty Chan
In this high-interest, accessible, and fast-paced novel for teen readers, Mason plans the ultimate revenge on two of his worst bullies before he moves to a new school. But the plan backfires, and the bullies are furious!
(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3418-7, available as ebook)

MY LEFT SKATE: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF ELIEZER SHERBATOV

Anna Rosner
Based on extensive interviews, this first-person biography of a young hockey player chronicles how a freak accident at age 15 leaves Eliezer with a permanent disability and no feeling below his left knee, ending his hockey career. But his skating coach mother trains him to skate, and he returns to the rink, becoming an elite player in Quebec and eventually a professional player in Europe.
(Yellow Dog-Great Plains, \$15.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-087-3)

SILENCING REBECCA

Nikki Vogel
This genre-bending debut novel combines elements of horror, magic realism, and realistic fiction to tell the story of an Orthodox Jewish teen whose life changes when she moves from Toronto to Edmonton, and then even more when she transforms into a golem!
(Thistledown Press, \$18.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-226-3)

Partager avec les enfants des bribes d'histoires et du temps des Inuits

La chanteuse Susan Aglukark honore l'enfance de ses ancêtres

par Liz Katynski

UNA HUNA? QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?

Susan Aglukark

Illustrations d'Amiel Sandland et de Danny Christopher

Traduction de Joël Marcon

Les Éditions des Plaines

12,95 \$ papier, 36 pages

ISBN : 978-2-89611-845-8

La série d'albums jeunesse historiques de la chanteuse Susan Aglukark partage des beaux moments de changement dans la vie de la génération de sa mère, la dernière génération traditionnelle inuite habitant le Grand Nord du Canada.

« Nos ancêtres étaient très beaux et brillants. Ils ont des belles histoires. Voici quelques exemples de ce qui en était », dit Aglukark.

Le premier conte dans la série raconte une histoire de la vie en camp vue par une jeune fille, Ukpik, et le livre incorpore des mots de sa langue Inuktitut qui sont expliqués dans un glossaire. *Una Huna? Qu'est-ce que c'est?* est maintenant disponible en traduction française. Le titre pose la question, en Inuktitut et en français, au sujet d'une fourchette, un couteau et une cuillère, vus pour la première fois.

« J'ai une connexion avec Ukpik. Moi aussi, j'ai vécu la vie de camp », dit Aglukark.

En grandissant dans le Grand Nord, Aglukark parlait sa langue et, chaque année, passait trois ou quatre mois en camps avec sa communauté, pour faire la pêche et la chasse. « On appréciait ce qu'on n'avait pas. Par exemple, on partageait nos fourchettes, nos couteaux, et nos cuillères. Mais nos parents avaient encore moins que nous », dit-elle. « Maintenant, comme une femme plus âgée, j'apprécie ce que ma mère a vécu. »



Susan Aglukark shares stories of Inuit life and history with children

Singer-songwriter honours the childhood of her ancestors in picture book series

by Liz Katynski

UNA HUNA? QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?

Susan Aglukark

Illustrated by Amiel Sandland and Danny Christopher

Translated by Joël Marcon

Les Éditions des Plaines

\$12.95 pb, 36 pages

ISBN: 978-2-89611-845-8

Singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark's series of historical picture books shares beautiful moments of change in the lives of her mother's generation, the last traditional generation of Inuit in Canada's North.

“Our ancestors were beautiful, brilliant people. They have beautiful stories. Here are some examples of what that looked like,” says Aglukark.

The first in the series tells a story of camp life through the eyes of a young girl, Ukpik, and it incorporates words from the Inuktitut language, defining them in a glossary. *Una Huna? What Is This?* is now available in French as *Una Huna? Qu'est-ce que c'est?* The title question, in both Inuktitut and French, asks about cutlery, introduced to Ukpik by a visitor.

“I feel connected to Ukpik. I experienced a camp life. I have that connection,” says Aglukark.

Growing up in the North, Aglukark spoke her language and spent three or four months a year with her community in camps on the land, hunting and fishing. “We appreciated what we didn't have. For example, we had to share utensils. But our parents had even less still,” she says. “As an older woman now, I appreciate what my mom went through.”

Songwriting is a lot like storytelling, Aglukark says. “I listened to stories from previous generations. I realized

Écrire des chansons c'est comme écrire des histoires, dit Aglukark. « J'ai écouté les histoires du passé. J'ai réalisé que notre génération ne les écoutait pas avec des "oreilles contentes." Mais c'était leur vie et ils l'ont aimée. Ces histoires partagent des moments de changement profond. J'ai choisi ces moments pour que les enfants puissent comprendre. »

Pour Aglukark, la réconciliation c'est « corriger la narrative et réécrire les histoires de nos ancêtres du point de vue de notre génération. Quand on apprend, on change. On devient plus à l'aise avec soi. Le récit change. »

Aglukark dit, « Nos belles communautés peuvent guérir. On peut prendre charge de notre environnement. Quand on apprend les belles histoires, les choses qui auraient pu arriver, on doit les partager pour que les jeunes les aient pour faire leur propre travail. »

Écrits pour ses petites-nièces et ses petits-neveux, ses livres sont pour les enfants, mais les adultes aussi peuvent les apprécier.

« Nos ancêtres dans les communautés Inuits savaient que le changement arriverait », dit-elle. « Les effets de la colonisation ont été terribles, mais mes livres sont pour les enfants inuits, pour partager avec eux les bribes de l'histoire d'autrefois. On veut honorer leur enfance. C'était parfois beau et content et joyeux, et plusieurs ont des beaux souvenirs. On partage l'amour. » 🌿



Susan Aglukark

our generation had access to them but did not listen to them with 'happy ears.' But this was their life and they loved it. These stories are moments of the most profound change. I focus on those changes, so that children may know how profound those changes actually were."

For Aglukark, reconciliation is about "correcting the narrative and rewriting the stories of our ancestors through the lens of this generation. As we learn, we change. We become more grounded and sure. The narrative changes."

She says, "Our beautiful communities can be healed. We can take control of our environment. As we learn the beautiful stories, the things that might have been, we have to share them so the younger people will have them to work with."

Written for her grandnieces and grandnephews, Aglukark's books are for children, but many adults also appreciate the stories.

"Even our ancestors in any Inuit community knew change was inevitable," she says. "The effects of colonization were terrible, but this is for the Inuit children, to share the bits and pieces of that history and time. We want to honour their childhood. Parts of it were beautiful and happy and joyful, and many had fond memories. We share that love." 🌿

Fall 2022 from NEWEST PRESS



Five Moves of Doom
A.J. Devlin

\$22.95

"A.J. Devlin is not only on his game, but in a league of his own." – Dave Butler

Hired by to find a missing championship belt, pro-wrestler PJ "Hammerhead" Jed must extract answers from the tight-knit MMA community.

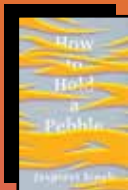


Ghosts in a Photograph
Myrna Kostash

\$24.95

"Myrna Kostash is a national treasure." – *The Globe and Mail*

Delving into the lives of her grandparents, who moved from Galicia, now present-day Ukraine, to Alberta at the turn of the twentieth century, Myrna Kostash questions the official narrative.

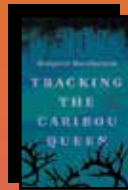


How to Hold a Pebble
Jaspreet Singh

\$20.95

"These poems will continue to toll inside you. At times, they will turn you inside out." – Donna Kane

Singh's second collection of poems locates humans in the Anthropocene, while also warning against the danger of a single story.



Tracking the Caribou Queen: A Memoir of a Settler Girlhood
Margaret Macpherson

\$24.95

"You will be deeply moved." – Naomi McLivraith

In this challenging Northern memoir Macpherson lays bare her own white privilege and how her childhood was shaped by the colonialism and systemic racism that continues today.



There Are Wolves Here Too
Niall Howell

\$22.95

"Howell is a writer to watch." – Sam Wiebe

Spilt blood whets the appetite of a ravine at the heart of Haddington Springs, a bedroom community with a closet full of bones.

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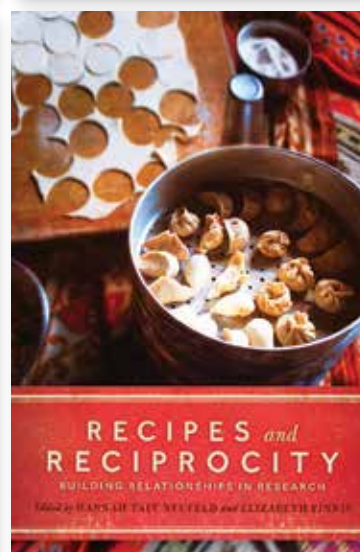
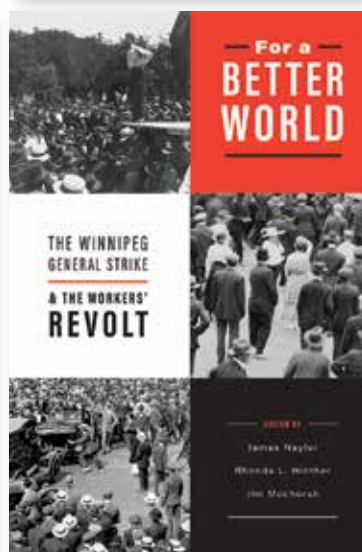
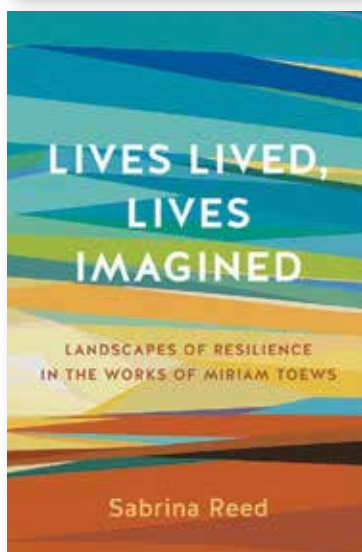
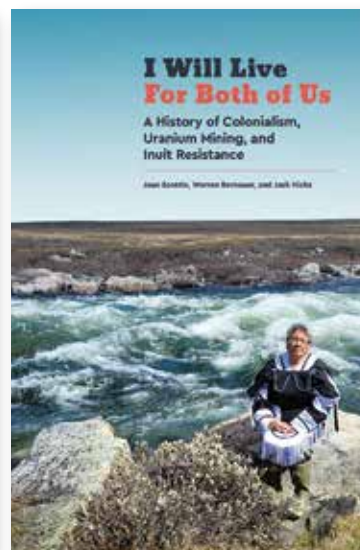
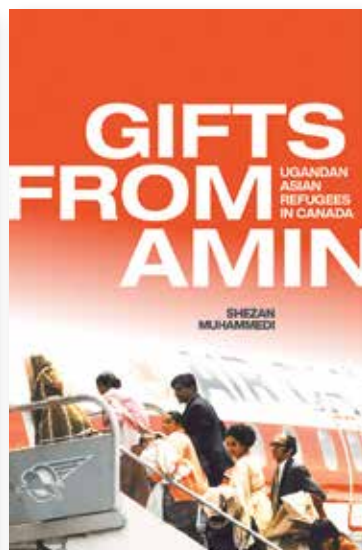
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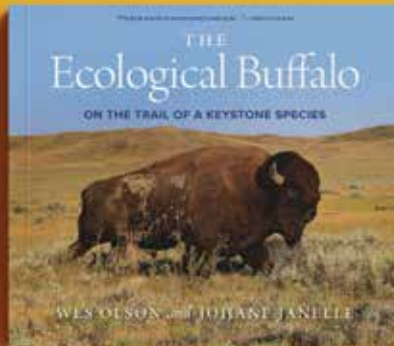
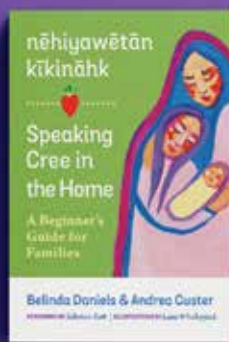
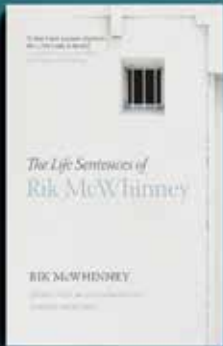


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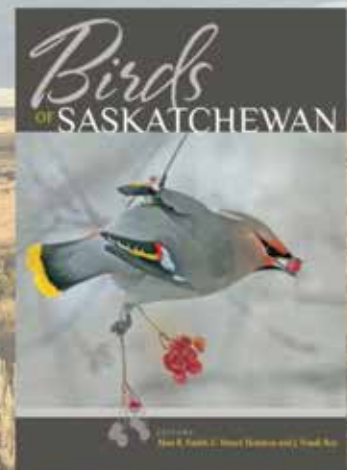


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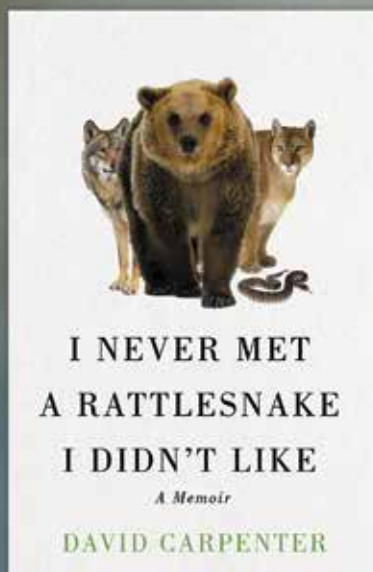


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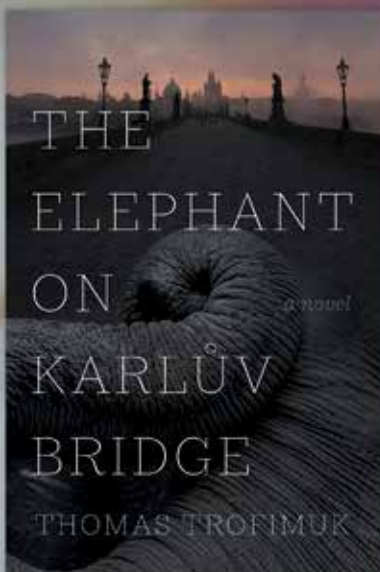
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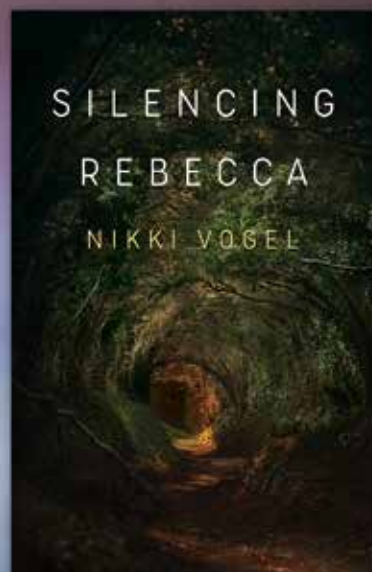
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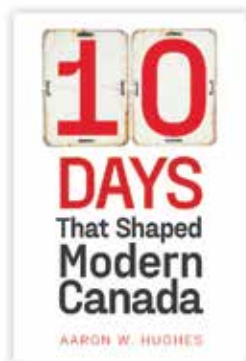


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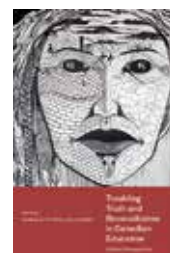


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De courts textes écrits en français avec un léger accent anglais

Pierrette Requier : capter le passé et le parler francophones du nord de l'Alberta

par Lucien Chaput

PETITES NOUVELLES DU LAST BEST OUEST

Pierrette Requier

Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume

20,00 \$ papier, 114 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924237-78-6

*P*etites nouvelles du Last Best Ouest est un livre écrit en français avec de l'anglais dedans. Pourtant, le nouveau recueil de poèmes de Pierrette Requier est plus que ça. Beaucoup plus que ça.

Au début, il y a *details from the edge of the village*, publié par Frontenac House en 2009 : « un livre en anglais avec du français dedans ». Requier a été inspiré par un livre de l'auteur latina-américaine Sandra Cisneros. « Elle y mettait des expressions espagnoles. Elle écrivait l'anglais avec un accent espagnol!

« Ça m'a donné un modèle pour arrêter d'essayer de séparer mes deux langues parce que, en moi, les deux langues se parlent constamment. *edge of the village* et *Last Best Ouest*, les deux, sont écrits en dialecte du nord de l'Alberta. »

C'est durant des lectures publiques comme poète officielle de la ville d'Edmonton (2015 à 2017), et aussi lorsqu'elle produisait l'événement francophone du Festival de poésie d'Edmonton pendant sept ans, qu'elle a commencé à traduire, ou plutôt à adapter, ses poèmes.

« Je m'étais donné comme objectif – que ce soit à Edmonton ou à travers le Canada – de présenter dans les deux langues également, pour commencer à créer ce sens que nous les francophones hors Québec, on doit avoir une présence et on ne doit pas s'excuser pour notre français », dit Requier.

Pour la quatrième de onze enfants nés et élevés à Donnelly dans la région de Rivière-la-Paix, traduction égale adaptation, voir même re-création. « Quand j'ai



Short pieces written in French with a slight English accent

Pierrette Requier captures the northern Alberta francophone past and dialect

by Lucien Chaput

PETITES NOUVELLES DU LAST BEST OUEST

Pierrette Requier

Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume

\$20.00 pb, 114 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924237-78-6

*P*etites nouvelles du Last Best Ouest is a book written in French with English in it. But of course, Pierrette Requier's new poetry collection is more than that. Much more than that.

It started with *details from the edge of the village*, published by Frontenac House in 2009: "an English book with French in it." Requier was inspired by a book by Latin American author Sandra Cisneros. "She would insert Spanish words and expressions in her writings. She wrote English with a Spanish accent!

"It gave me a model to stop trying to separate my two languages because, inside me, the two languages are constantly talking to each other. *edge of the village* and *Last Best Ouest*, both are written in a northern Alberta dialect."

It was during her public readings as Edmonton's Poet Laureate (2015 to 2017), and also while she produced the French event of the Edmonton Poetry Festival for seven years, that she began translating, or rather adapting,

her poems.

"I had made it my goal – whether it was in Edmonton or across Canada – to perform in both languages equally, to start creating this sense that we francophones outside Quebec must have a presence and we must not apologize for our French," says Requier.

For the fourth of 11 children born and raised in Donnelly in the Peace River region, translation equals adaptation, or even re-creation. "When I started

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

commencé à traduire en français, j'ai découvert qu'il y avait des choses qui ne se traduisaient pas. Alors cela veut dire qu'il y a des poèmes uniquement en anglais dans le recueil en français », dit-elle.

« Quand j'écrivais en français, je devais aller dans une strate beaucoup, beaucoup plus profonde en moi, et c'est là où j'ai pu écrire au sujet de ma vie de famille, mais aussi de l'impact intergénérationnel de l'immigration. Étant enfant d'enfants de pionniers et pionnières, il y a eu cet impact sur moi, écrivaine de l'Ouest, francophone, et dans le fin fond, *bi-langue*, bilingue. »

Qu'est-ce qui caractérise les 90 petites nouvelles du recueil? « Ce qu'il y a au fond de ce recueil, c'est une tendresse », dit Requier. « Quand j'ai présenté à Donnelly, c'est comme si les gens, ces gens de la terre, entendaient leur parler et leurs histoires.

« On me dit : c'est comme si tu avais capté mon passé, capté la façon dont on vivait. Tolstoy disait : *si tu veux me parler de l'universel, parle-moi de ton village*. C'est un peu ça que je fais : les gens me disent, c'est de la poésie, ça? Et je leur dis, laisse-moi t'en lire quelques uns. »



Pierrette Requier

translating into French, I discovered that there were things that couldn't be translated. So that means that there are English-only poems in the French collection," she says.

"When I was writing in French, I had to go to a much, much deeper layer within me, and that's where I was able to write about my family life, but also the intergenerational impact of immigration. Being the child of the children of pioneers, there was this impact on me, a writer from the West, francophone, and basically, *two-linguaged*, bilingual."

What characterizes the 90 narratives in the collection? "What is present in the stories of this collection is a certain tenderness," Requier says. "When I read these stories in Donnelly, it was like the people, those people of the land, heard their way of talking and their stories.

"I was told: it is as if you have captured my past, captured the way we lived. Tolstoy said, 'If you want to talk to me about the universal, tell me about your village.' That's kind of what I do. People tell me, 'You call that poetry?' And I say to them, 'Let me read you some.'"

VIENNENT DE PARAITRE EN FRANÇAIS

HUMANISMES : APRÈS FINUTILITÉ ET PARTICULITÉS

Daniel Lavoie

Par l'entremise de poèmes et de fables, Daniel Lavoie, auteur-compositeur-interprète natif du Manitoba, partage des moments de perception, des réflexions sur les contradictions aussi bien que les révélations de la vie avec passion, humour et sensibilité. In poems and fables, Manitoba-born singer-songwriter Daniel Lavoie shares moments of insight and reflections on the contradictions and revelations of life with passion, humour, and sensitivity.

(Éditions des Plaines, poésie/fables, 21,95 \$ papier, 126 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-839-7)

MONICA-CLAIRE FÊTE LE CANADA : UN VOYAGE DE DÉCOUVERTES

Ginette Fournier

Illustrations de Chantal Piché

Ce troisième tome de la collection Monica-Claire est une magnifique histoire d'amitié, de curiosité et d'ouverture à l'autre qui raconte une aventure d'un bout à l'autre du pays à la découverte des festivités qui

entourent la fête du Canada. This third title of the Monica-Claire series, a magnificent story of friendship, curiosity, and being open to others, tells of the discovery of Canada Day festivities across the country. (Éditions des Plaines, album jeunesse, 12,95 \$ papier, 32 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-836-6)

LE PETIT BAR DU VILLAGE (ET AUTRES NOUVELLES)

Jean-Pierre Picard

Ce recueil de 22 micronouvelles raconte comment notre humanité peut être à la fois belle et lourde à porter. This collection of 22 pieces of microfiction exposes how human nature can be a heavy or light load to carry. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, nouvelles, 16,00 \$, papier, 90 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-95-3)

QUATRE ÉCARTS

Lise Gaboury-Diallo

Cette version poétique moderne de voyages d'Ulysse, jette un regard subjectif sur le monde et les relations humaines. This modern poetic retelling of the voyages of Ulysses takes a subjective look at the world and human relations. (Éditions du Blé, poésie, 29,95 \$, 154 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-67-7)

RÉCOLTE

Joëlle Préfontaine

Cette pièce de théâtre est l'excavation de l'arbre généalogique d'une famille agricole rurale francophone de l'Alberta. L'intrigue est portée par la génération de frère et sœur captifs du passé dont le vécu est alourdi par les violentes séquelles de l'alcoolisme. This play presents a life hardened by violence and alcohol as told through the experiences of a brother and sister in a rural Franco-Albertan agricultural family, who are prisoners of the past.

(Éditions du Blé, théâtre, 15,00 \$ 120 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-63-9)

SAPERLIPOPETTE, COLLECTION P'TITS COPAINS

Danielle Lavoie

Le goût de Suzette pour les petites bestioles lui attire des ennuis avec sa grand-mère. La fraîcheur et la richesse des illustrations séduiront les lecteurs. Suzette is attracted by little bugs and beasties, which causes more than a few problems with her grandmother. Readers will be charmed by the fresh and rich illustrations. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, album jeunesse, 10,95 \$, broché, 32 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-94-6)

Dispatches

Insights on audiobooks

by Cassie Smyth

To me, audiobooks will always evoke nostalgic feelings of childhood when I would spend hours listening to a loved one tell me a story. These days, perhaps I am out running errands or cooking dinner – instead of sitting in a twin-sized bed surrounded by stuffed animals and the glow of my favourite night light – as I listen, but the feeling remains. There is, and always will be, something inimitable about listening to a really good story.

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Not only do we produce compelling audiobooks written by Canadian authors, but we bolster them with great Canadian voice talent. In early 2022, ECW published in audio *The Education of Augie Merasty*, which was originally published in print by the University of Regina Press in 2015. Pairing such a courageous and intimate book with one of the foremost Indigenous actors in Canada, Lorne Cardinal, we were able to give the book the careful compassion and gravitas it so deserved. Lorne selects his projects carefully, and it was a true honour



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to have his voice at the heart of this audiobook, telling Augie’s story.

We’re dedicated to bringing the best of contemporary Canadian literature in audiobook form to readers around the world. To that end, we shine a light on authors from across Canada, including Prairie authors such as Anne Lazurko, Gail Bowen, and Neil Besner. Whether readers are looking for historical fiction, mystery, non-fiction, memoir,

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or something else entirely – there is an audiobook for them to enjoy.

And when we are not working on our own audiobooks, we are partnering with other Canadian publishers to help them get their books out in audio form. Recently, we have worked with and produced audiobooks for Fernwood Publishing, Portage & Main Press, University of Manitoba Press, and University of Regina Press, among many others. In doing so, we have worked with studios and voice talent based in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, and Saskatoon. ECW’s audiobook production work is truly a coast-to-coast operation. We’re really not kidding when we say we have “something for everyone”!

Books have always been a way for us to learn more about ourselves and each other. They bring us to different times and spaces and thrill us with the unfamiliar and unknown. It is one thing to read a book from the page, but it is something else completely to sit down and enjoy the experience of someone telling you a truly unforgettable story. 🌿

Cassie Smyth is the Audiobooks Manager at ECW Press, the leading producer of Canadian audiobooks.

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LIZ KATYNSKI est une écrivaine de Winnipeg.

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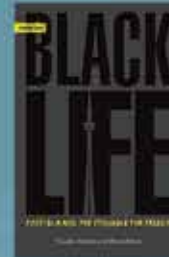
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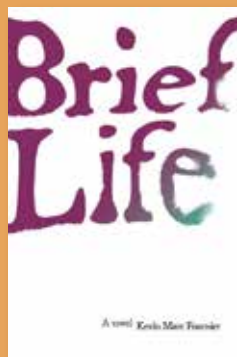
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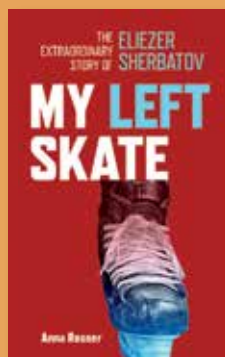


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Kevin Marc Fournier

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Anna Rosner

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"I have been fortunate to interview a number of Hockey Hall of Famers through the years, and have read many sports-related books, and none of the stories have been more surprising, interesting and just plain enjoyable to read than My Left Skate by Anna Rosner. His story is a TV miniseries needing to be made. The heart and determination of Sherbatov to play the game he loves should be inspiring to readers of all ages."—CALVIN DANIELS, EDITOR OF YORKTON THIS WEEK, AUTHOR, AND SPORTS JOURNALIST



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in the Foster Care System*

Anne Mahon

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With a foreword by Beatrice Moisonier

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