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INSIDE

New books by

**CATHERINE
HUNTER**

**RANDY
LUNDY**



YOU'LL ALSO FIND:

Post-apocalyptic novella follows a legend living under the weight of expectation

Poet dips into fairy tales and fabulism, but with a 'bloody scream' in lieu of softness

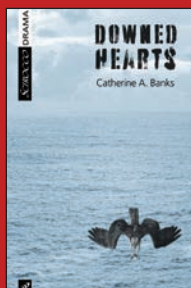
Non-linear play about bipolar disorder casts audience in role of silent therapist

Ecologist's memoir offers reflection, hope in the face of climate catastrophe

12-year-old's time at culture camp comes alive for readers through sensory journey

Lessons about impacts of small actions shine through story of neighbourly connection

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Downed Hearts

Catherine A. Banks

Aaron, an island fisherman, is grappling with trauma after taking part in a recovery mission for a jetliner that crashed off the coast. Seeking solace at sea, Aaron returns home with a mysterious young mute woman, causing friction within his family. This moving drama explores grief and the unexpected ways healing can arrive.

978-1990738-66-1, \$18.95



The Golden Anniversaries

Mark Crawford

Glen and Sandy Golden have celebrated each of their wedding anniversaries at the same cottage for fifty years. When Sandy cancels their milestone celebration, Glen tricks her into coming to the cottage anyway, where the couple reflects on a lifetime of love, conflict, and memory over the course of one revealing evening.

978-1990738-69-2, \$18.95



In Seven Days

Jordi Mand

A poignant, funny play about family, choice, and mortality. When Rachel learns that her father has decided to use medical assistance in dying to end his life in seven days, she tries to stop him. As the week unfolds, characters clash, face their fears and regrets, examine their faith, and explore what it means to say goodbye.

978-1990738-67-8, \$18.95



Starwalker

Corey Payette

Star is a young Two-Spirit Oji-Cree man who is surviving on the streets of Vancouver's East Side. A chance meeting brings him to the House of Borealis, a haven for drag queens, where Star finds love and acceptance. This powerful and moving musical celebrates self-discovery, resilience, and community.

978-1990738-68-5, \$18.95



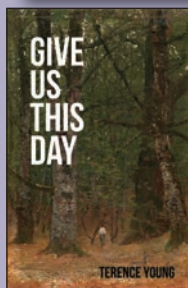
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978-1773241-59-3, \$22.95



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978-1773241-61-6, \$21.95



978-1773241-57-9, \$18.95



978-1773241-67-8, \$19.95

On the Cover: Cover art for *The Many Names of Robert Cree* created by Jess Albert. Graphically designed collage, 2025.

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Post-apocalyptic novella follows a legend living under the weight of expectation

First title in new speculative fiction imprint grew from climate grief, pandemic angst

by melanie brannagan frederiksen

THE DROWNED MAN'S DAUGHTER

C. J. Lavigne

NeWest Press

\$23.95 pb, 176 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77439-120-4

Available as an ebook

Red Deer-based author C. J. Lavigne's latest work, *The Drowned Man's Daughter*, is a novella that occupies the intersection of fantasy, science fiction, and horror. It is also the first title in NeWest Press's new Barbour Books speculative fiction imprint.

"I started with the idea of a post-apocalyptic beach and the girl who lived on it," Lavigne says.

That girl on the beach is Naia, found there as a baby by a small group of people surviving on an island. Needing something to believe in, the community builds a legend around her, turning her into a sea goddess with powers she doesn't have.



C. J. Lavigne

"I was trying to explore the particular discomfort that comes from navigating relationships with people who only see you as an accessory to their own lives – people who like you because of what they think you can do for them, or people who refuse to see that you are changing because they only see whomever they still think you are," says Lavigne.

"Naia is doing her best to come into her own when she's surrounded by expectations."

Naia's singular voice was, from the beginning, central to the story, a realization Lavigne found through experimenting. "I toyed with different versions; I tried it in third person, for example, but nothing else read quite right. Her voice was the voice of this story."

Lavigne's attention to language is also instrumental to establishing the post-apocalyptic setting. "There are

elements of contemporary Western culture that have seeped through to Naia's world – everything from the remnants of the research station to people's names to the memory of birds to the vocabulary she uses," she explains.

"I tried to keep it subtle, but I wanted to litter her language with allusions to things common to us that she wouldn't know first-hand – the implication being that these phrases and comparisons have survived from some other time."

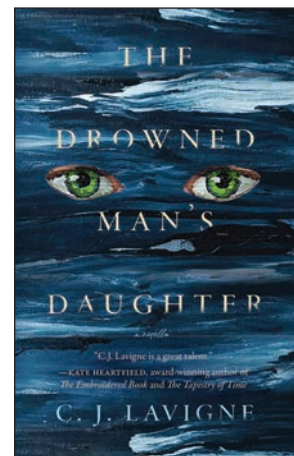
The novella's ending, in which Naia tries in three different ways to conclude the story she's telling, draws attention to the nature of storytelling itself and what a reader or listener demands of the storyteller.

"She's not narrating her life to get to any particular moral or practical destination, so there's that element of 'okay, what are you looking for here?' that calls attention to the reader's expectations and desires and the contrivances of any story," says Lavigne.

The ending also highlights Lavigne's affinity for what she calls "non-linear or time-skippy narratives": "*The Drowned Man's Daughter* uses both past and present tense in different scenes, and at the very end, Naia veers into future tense. The grammar she uses situates her within the story, so that raises a question, too – where is she standing when she speaks?"

The questions and themes that animate the novella go beyond Naia's "personal tunnel vision of her life and her experiences in the world." Lavigne says, "The stories we create are inevitably inflected, deliberately or not, by the experiences and truths we ourselves know."

"This book is absolutely my climate grief dipped in pandemic angst; the environmental devastation we see glimpses of was always foundational to the story, but the fact that I was writing during the early years of COVID-19 definitely contributed to threads of loneliness and vulnerability." 🌿



Sinister secrets lurk around dilapidated English bookstore in new psychological thriller

Cast of curious characters add mystery, malevolence to novel

by Margaret Anne Fehr

BEHIND THE DOOR

M. S. Berry

Ravenstone-Turnstone Press

\$23.95 pb, 250 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-801-4

After a career writing literary novels and short fiction as Michelle Berry, the Peterborough-based author is now writing psychological thrillers under the name M. S. Berry. *Behind the Door* is her second one, following *The Tenant*, which was published earlier this year.

Berry realizes she may have been something of a thriller writer even before she took on her new moniker and genre focus. “As I look back on all my novels, the most interesting parts to me have to do with something sinister in the background, some unknown character or plot or a mysterious setting that lingers long after you’ve written or read a scene,” she says.

And she’s enjoying the shift. “There is something about the unknown that feels like putting together a puzzle,” she says. “You slowly start to see what is right in front of you. Writing mysteries feels like clicking those puzzle pieces together.”

Behind the Door is set in Riverton, a small English hamlet where 20-something Anna has procured a housesitting and bookstore gig that allows her a much-needed time out from her troubled romantic life in Canada, as well as an opportunity to work on her stalled PhD thesis.

The absent landlord, Ryan Boswell, has made it abundantly clear via a series of emails that the closed bedroom door on the second floor is off-limits, and Berry

succeeds in ratcheting up the suspense of what might reside behind the door right up until the final pages.

A cast of idiosyncratic bookstore customers contributes another layer of misdirection and ambiguous commentary to the novel’s progress as Anna tries to understand her role within the town.

The creaky, rundown house and dilapidated bookstore exude their own malevolence throughout the novel.

“The characters have personality and are memorable, but the setting does, too,” Berry says.

Berry drew from myriad sources, including the Bluebeard fairy tale, in creating *Behind the Door*.

“Usually my novels start with an idea, an image, a saying, or one sentence and I just follow whatever that is to the end,” she says.

“It’s during editing that I put everything together, map things out, and connect the pieces.

“All my life is incorporated into my writing but in subtle ways that sometimes only I see connections to – nothing is autobiographical in the real sense of the word, but everything is part of my life, my mind.”

One part of her life that made it into *Behind the Door* is the bookstore work. “I did own Hunter Street Books in Peterborough for five years,” Berry says. “I worked full-time in the store for three years and then delivered books during the pandemic. It was lovely, but hard work.”

Berry hopes readers will engage with the sinister and mysterious characters and setting. “I really want my readers to get a little shiver when they read, but also not be able to stop reading,” she says.

“I want them to enjoy the characters (you don’t have to like them, but hopefully you’re interested in them and curious about them) and the setting and find everything believable and mildly familiar.

“Even the odd stuff, with luck, will make you want to keep reading.” 🌿

“I really want my readers to get a little shiver when they read, but also not be able to stop reading.” M. S. BERRY



Linked stories about grief, widowhood written through Hunter's own 'terrible days'

Character of Clare reflects surreal experiences of loss that aren't often talked about

by Margaret Goldik

SEEING YOU HOME:

Stories

Catherine Hunter

Signature Editions

\$22.95 pb, 256 pages

ISBN: 978-1-773241-59-3

Available as an ebook

Catherine Hunter, an award-winning poet and a fiction writer from Winnipeg, tells the story of Clare and Rich in her collection of linked short stories, *Seeing You Home*.

The 10 stories catch the reader by the throat. They move from the present to the past and back again, as readers meet Rich in the hospital, then learn how Rich and Clare – very different people – get together. The minor characters are finely drawn, adding to our knowledge of Clare and Rich and the loving circle they create. Clare, however, eventually carries the story.

Twenty years after they meet, Rich is diagnosed with lung cancer, which metastasizes. Clare teaches at the university, but is now also shouldering the burden of the household and medical appointments.

Hunter has written from experience, and says, “At times I was writing about events as they were happening. In retrospect, it’s a good thing I kept writing throughout it all, because there is so very much from those terrible days that I can’t remember.”

After Rich’s death, Clare finds herself without a road map for her new reality, though well-meaning friends have a lot of advice. Hunter describes the very specific and somehow surreal effects on Clare.

“Grief does strange things to a person’s brain, and that was partly what I was trying to capture in the stories

– the way Clare experiences time warps. Worry transports her to the past or future, ideas and plans slip her mind, she can’t concentrate, she misplaces and loses things.

“Her sense of time and space are distorted. Her identity is precarious – she shifts from thinking of herself in the first person to the third person and back again. And always there’s her awful forgetfulness, that feeling she can’t hold on to anything.”

All of these are symptoms of grief that are rarely talked about, says Hunter. “When your person dies, your world has changed so radically it seems like you’re in another dimension. At the same time, you’re perfectly sane, going about your life, knowing that it really did happen.”

Seeing You Home evolved organically, Hunter explains. “When my husband was extremely ill, somebody stole his phone from his hospital room while he was sleeping. I wrote a story about it. Much later, after he died, the furnace broke down. It took six different house calls, by three or four different repairmen, each with a different

theory, to fix it. I wrote a story about that too. A couple of years later, when a squirrel took up residence in an old carpet in my backyard, I wrote another story.

“Soon it began to look like a series of stories about grief and widowhood. It wasn’t

until most of the stories were already finished that I decided on an order for them and turned the project into a book.”

The final story, “Seeing You Home,” is a beautiful coda, expanding on love and sorrow.

“The structure of a story forces some form of progression on events, and eventually forces some kind of closure, no matter how tenuous or temporary.”



“When your person dies, your world has changed so radically it seems like you’re in another dimension.” CATHERINE HUNTER

MORE FICTION

SHORT STORIES

AS THE EARTH DREAMS: BLACK CANADIAN SPECULATIVE STORIES

Edited by Terese Mason Pierre

Ten haunting stories by contemporary Black Canadian writers such as francesca ekwuyasi, Zalika Reid-Benta, Terese Mason Pierre, and Calgary-based Chimedum Ohaegbu explore natural and urban landscapes, life and death and the in-between state, economic disaster, love, and more, all while celebrating the ever-changing self and envisioning uplifting Black futures.

(House of Anansi Press, \$24.99 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1266-3, available as ebook)

THE BEAUTY AND THE HELL OF IT & OTHER STORIES

Lynda Williams

This stunning collection of wry, tender, and always authentic stories features women (and one man) – teachers, teenagers, widows, artistic types, students, cashiers, and bar servers – who deal with ex-lovers, complicated families, the death of loved ones, mental illness, and trauma with courage, honesty, and an open heart. Readers won't soon forget these stories.

(Guernica Editions, \$22.95 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77183-968-6, available as ebook)

GIVE US THIS DAY

Terence Young

This striking collection of short fiction moves from the intimate to the expansive, from the meditative to the urgent, following characters – such as retired grandparents thrust into child care, teachers trying to connect with their students, and couples at a crossroads – whose missteps and circumstances shape them and show the fragility of human relationships.

(Signature Editions, \$21.95 pb, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773241-61-6, available as ebook)

INTO THE D/ARK

David Elias

It's the fall of 1963, and the assassination of John F. Kennedy is seeping into the surreal happenings of small-town southern Manitoba. Clarence Martens, a

blacksmith, has turned to creating abstract sculptures, while his wife Rose deals with the aftermath of a fire that left their two sons, Jake and Cornie, disfigured; Martha's preacher brother Abe has abandoned his congregation to devote himself to making "The Ark"; and Martha is overcome by truths she cannot tell and feelings she must suppress. This all comes to a dramatic climax with the first big snowfall of the year.

(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998926-38-1)

THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE, THEN

Judith Pond

Through wry and often absurd linked stories, readers witness the life of Jen, from her rough rural childhood in Nova Scotia, where she deals matter-of-factly with a younger brother with a disability, a baby sister, a depressed mother, and motley neighbours, to her adulthood in Calgary where she is an addictions counsellor.

(Freehand Books, \$22.95 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-97-2, available as ebook)

WINTER SKY: STORIES FOR THE SEASON

Shelley Thompson

Set during the winter, the stories in this collection – both historical and contemporary – explore the complexities and the comforts, the light and dark, and the heartache and delight of the holiday season.

(Nimbus Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 112 pages, with pen & ink illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77471-470-6, available as ebook)

NOVELLAS

BEAVER HILLS FOREVER: A MÉTIS POETIC NOVELLA

Conor Kerr

This playful, yet hard-hitting novella follows Buddy, a welder in the oil fields; Baby Mamma, the mother of his four children, who is trying to go back to school; Fancy University Boy, who begins but drops out of university, and then works in a warehouse supplying oil industry parts; and Auntie Prof, an untenured prof of Indigenous lit – each life showing the limitations of paths available to

Métis people on the Prairies, and the determination these characters have to make something of themselves.

(Arsenal Pulp Press, \$21.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-83405-008-9, available as ebook)

THE FIRST THOUSAND TREES

Premee Mohamed

This luminous novella concludes the trilogy started with *The Annual Migration of Clouds*. Henryk Mandrusiak, ostracized in his community and without his best friend, Reid, goes to live with his uncle in a distant village with trees and water and a different way of living, rebuilding the land bit by bit. But even here, he does not belong, and small mistakes have big consequences.

(ECW Press, \$19.95 pb, 136 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-734-2, available as ebook)

NOVELS

AS LONG AS YOU'RE MINE

Nekesa Afia

Set in Hollywood in two timelines, 1934 and 1954, this novel follows the two women movie star Tommy Ross loved most – his daughter, Thea, who is left with more questions than answers when he dies suddenly, apparently by suicide, and his lover, Lorelei Davies, who also died apparently by suicide 20 years earlier. Thea teams up with gossip reporter Amy Evans to find out the truth about their deaths and their relationship and her inheritance. (Lake Union Publishing-Firefly, \$25.99 pb, 284 pages, ISBN: 978-1-6625-2408-0, available as ebook and audiobook)

THE CHORUS BENEATH OUR FEET

Melanie Schnell

After eight years away in Afghanistan, Jes brings the body of his fellow soldier home for burial, to find that his sister, Mary, who has not spoken since she was 12, is missing and wanted for questioning by the police in connection with the murder of a baby in the city's central park, which is about to be demolished. Jes follows obscure clues, gradually uncovering mysteries of how the Harron Tree in the park is connected

to his sister, their childhood, and the community's dark past.
(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 384 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-998926-32-9)

DAYS OF FEASTING AND REJOICING

David Bergen

Identities blur and moral compasses waver in the murky atmosphere of the expat community in Thailand, in this tense and unexpectedly violent literary crime thriller. Esther Maile, after witnessing the drowning of her friend Christine in Bali, takes on Christine's life, confusing Christine's friends and family and most of all local Thai police captain Net Wantok, who is investigating not only Christine's death, but also further disappearances.
(Goose Lane Editions, \$25.00 pb, 208 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77310-344-0, available as ebook)

DESIRE AND THE LAW

Tristis Ward

In this sci-fi crime thriller, Desire, a half-scale, hyper-advanced android assassin, is reluctantly allied with "The Law," a rule-obsessed rookie galactic cop, in a hunt for a killer – a hunt that has them hopping across galaxies.
(EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-258-8, available as ebook)

THE FULCRUM

Michael Decter

Picking up where *Shadow Life* left off, this novel sees Matthew Rice starting a new phase of his life – moving on and away from his work as a Toronto city manager and from the traumatizing experience of serving on a jury to do graduate studies in climate science at Harvard and reconnect with his new love, Mary Louise, whom he met in Dublin. However, Irish troubles and environmental disaster threaten their happiness.
(GFB-Girl Friday Productions, \$25.95 pb, 316 pages, ISBN: 978-1-964721-37-8, available as ebook)

**HAD A GREAT FALL, A ROXANNE
CALLOWAY MYSTERY**

Raye Anderson

On maternity leave and restless, Roxanne Calloway can't resist checking out the body found in a sunflower field near her

home in the Manitoba Interlake. When she discovers the body is that of Cooper Jenkins, a retired detective sergeant with the City of Winnipeg Police who saved her life years ago, Roxanne insists on being a part of the investigation.
(Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 260 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77324-153-1, available as ebook)

HONEYDEW

Ben Zalkind

This debut dystopian adventure novel follows Rose Gold, who is somehow thrust into the role of renegade mentor and hero to a trio of idealistic young rebels. The target of their sabotage is celebrity Moses Honeydew, CEO of Substrate Inc., and to escape his evil clutches, they go on the lam with Dr. Hansjorg Wintereg. But escape is not really an option when dealing with a multinational corporation with a vendetta.
(Radiant Press, \$25.00 pb, 276 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-998926-35-0)

IN THE BEAR'S HOUSE

Bruce Hunter

Previously published in 2009, this new edition brings the lyrical novel to new readers. Two perspectives – that of Trout, a Deaf boy from the Calgary subdivision of Ogden, and of his young, artistic mother, Clare – combine to tell the story of Trout as he makes his way from Ogden to the Kootenay Plains wilderness, where he learns from the mountains and the community of Nakoda families, who are facing the destructive effects of the Bighorn Dam construction.
(Frontenac House, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-989466-98-8, available as ebook)

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Lauren Carter

This mesmerizing genre-blending thriller – with some time travel, magic, and romance mixed in – explores belonging, trauma, power, and love in the story of 19-year-old Ash Hayes. After being locked out of her family home in rural Minnesota one frigid winter night, she is taken in by neighbours she doesn't know, and she soon realizes that time, place, and reality itself are not as stable as she once assumed.
(Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 312 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-990601-95-8)

THE OGRE CLUB

Jon Redfern

In this crime thriller, insurance fraud investigator Richard Suttle does a favour by going to Mexico City to look for his friend's son, who in addition to horning in on the tourist drug trade, tries to blackmail a powerful TV evangelist who is running a child sex trafficking ring. Can Suttle find Brendan alive and avoid being killed himself?
(Signature Editions, \$18.95 pb, 272 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77324-157-9, available as ebook)

REVOLUTION SONGS

Carissa Halton

Set in a 1930s Rocky Mountain mining town, this debut historical novel was inspired by the little-known story of a Communist union, the rise of the Canadian Ku Klux Klan, and the women who fought on both sides, women such as young Annie Jalmer, who becomes an unwilling double agent for opposing Communists and Fascist forces until a violent strike forces her to take a stand, and Emmeline Webb, the wife of the chief of the police.
(NeWest Press, \$24.95 pb, 368 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77439-124-2, available as ebook)

A SNAKE AND A FEATHERED BIRD

Angie Ellis

This historical coming-of-age novel moves back and forth in time in the late 19th century, from one point of view to another, focusing mainly on the story of Ben, adopted and raised by a violent whisky dealer and a warm but beaten-down woman, befriended by his more prosperous neighbours, and tasked with delivering an inheritance to Lily, his father's niece. Ben needs to find out about his birth mother and who he really is before he can claim his place in the world.
(Thistledown Press, \$24.95 pb, 324 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-77187-281-2)

THE TWO FACES OF PARADISE

Ted Smith

Set in the Rocky Mountains of Canada and on the beaches of Thailand in the mid-1980s, this debut novel centres on Edith Warren, thought to be missing, and the men who love her – Robert Percy, her step-uncle and former lover, tasked with going to Thailand to find her; Danny LaChappelle, a businessman and her current lover in

Thailand; and Lorne Lund, a wealthy musician in the mountains and her best friend. Can Robert – and the reader – piece together the stories and discover why she lost touch with everyone two months ago?

(NeWest Press, \$24.95 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-128-0, available as ebook)

WE ARE ALL OF US LEFT BEHIND Bradley Somer

This queer coming-of-age story is told by Garrett, a young man who sets out on a journey from his Prairie oil town to Serbia to find his last known living relative, his grandfather, the Serbian author Miloš Milić, with only his resourcefulness, wits, and sometimes the kindness of strangers to help him along. With Garrett's characteristic two lies and a truth sprinkled throughout, this novel explores

profound loneliness, the need for belonging and family, and the persistence of hope.
(Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-92-7, available as ebook)

WHITE HEARTS

Nnamdi Okose

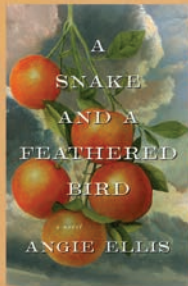
Woven together with the lore and magic of the Igbo, the story of this debut novel follows two young boys seeking to be initiated into an order of warriors, when an accident awakens a vengeful goddess and unleashes a curse that could mean the end of the world. A great army of both humans and mythical creatures requires a white heart to lead it and defend the world.

(Griots Lounge, \$23.99 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7386993-6-0)

FALL 2025



9781771872874 PB

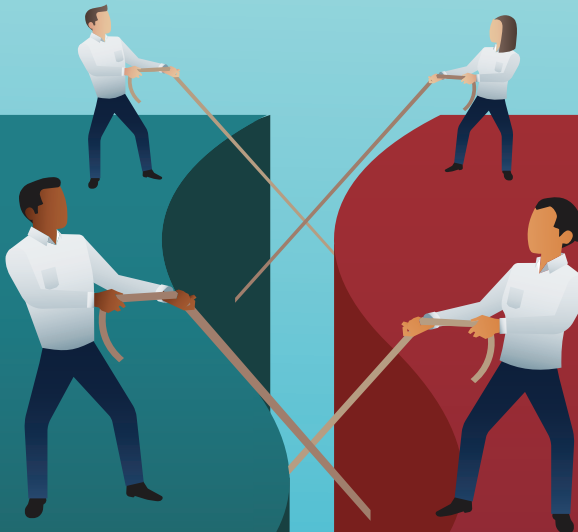


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Poems grounded in the body speak directly to the reader, invoking many senses

New collection by Lundy shares what can be salvaged from mistakes, failure

by Kyla Neufeld

SOMETHING FOR THE DARK

Randy Lundy

University of Regina Press

\$19.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77940-088-8

Available as an ebook

The poems in Randy Lundy's new collection, *Something for the Dark*, invite readers to be grounded in the body.

"I am interested in poems that include the gut and the groin, and feet, preferably bare, upon the ground, and carrying the weight of a body," says Lundy, who is a member of the Barren Lands First Nation in Saskatchewan and who now teaches at University of Toronto Scarborough.



"Human beings make mistakes, and we have to live with them."

RANDY LUNDY

This philosophy is apparent in the entire collection, which explores failures, heartbreak, and relationship with the land, as the aroma of coffee, the scent of cigarette smoke, and the sight of open Prairie skies appear and reappear throughout.

"We are bodies. We are bodies in the world, surrounded by physical being in all its inestimable forms. It only makes sense for me to begin there, since it is where I live, and everyone else, too," says Lundy.

"My sense of the world is that there is not a separation between what we casually refer to as matter and spirit. The separation or division is conceptual. In other words, it's in our minds,

but not an accurate representation of the reality."

Along with everyday sights and smells, a multitude of birds flit in and among the pages – crows, nuthatches, magpies, owls, and more. Lundy says they were inspired by memories of his Irish grandmother – the warmest,

most loving presence he's ever encountered – who kept a bird feeder in her yard for the grosbeaks.

"If you put out the seed, the birds will come," says Lundy.

"As an adult, I now tend to look for the birds when I sit in a backyard wherever it might be. Their presence comforts me, while their absence portends nothing good. This morning there was the voice of a northern cardinal hidden somewhere among branches and leaves, and a female house sparrow came to my dog's water dish and perched on the rim to dip and drink."

These poems often use the second person "you," which Lundy says speaks to a shared personhood between himself and readers.

"In speaking to 'myself' I am still speaking to the reader. There are in many of the poems the accidents of biography, although the reader has no way of knowing with certainty which details are truly biography and which are not, and I am not going to tell. But beyond or even *in* those, my hope is that there is something there that speaks beyond the personal and inches toward experience that other people can relate to directly."

The title comes from Philip Levine's poem, "For Fran" and appears in an epigraph in the book: "Out of whatever we have been / We will make something for the dark."

This collection reminds us that we can make something out of our mistakes.

"On the one hand, it's about acknowledging our own failures and shortcomings and perhaps salvaging something from those," says Lundy. "Human beings make mistakes, and we have to live with them."

But, he adds, "Darkness can represent possibility, fullness, potential rebirth, and renewal." 🌿



Poet dips into fairy tales and fabulism, but with a 'bloody scream' in lieu of softness

2nd collection from Skylar Kay explores hybridity, fickleness of gender

by Ariel Gordon

THERE'S MAGIC HERE TOO:

A Trans Woman's Guide to Being Monstrous

Skylar Kay

Frontenac House Poetry

\$22.95 pb, 84 pages

ISBN: 978-1-997580-03-4

Available as an ebook

Mermaids currently occupy a friendly space in pop culture. Think shell bras and long red hair billowing underwater. But in the past, mermaids were half-woman half-fish monsters that lured sex-starved sailors to their deaths.

Alberta-based poet Skylar Kay uses mermaids differently in her second collection, *There's Magic Here Too: A Trans Woman's Guide to Being Monstrous*. Along with werewolves, they, with their hybrid mythological bodies, are stand-ins for trans people.

"I think decoding these fairy tales and myths, rewriting them in a way that highlights the humanity of a queer community, is important," Kay says.

Kay found that queer community in Windsor, Ontario, where she was attending graduate school and writing these poems. There, she was able to explore gender in a fun yet profound way.

"For me, gender is so fickle, and exploring that hybridity or fluidity came not only from Windsor being a porous border town, but also from my own experience with body and sexuality," Kay says.

"It's all quite fluid, so having an explicitly hybrid not-quite-one-or-another body was quite useful for exploring my own gender and gender expression throughout the writing process."

Dipping her toes into fairy tales and fabulism gave Kay a new framework for those explorations.

"The concept of breaking the veil and changing bodies or entering other realms is quite common in fairy tales, so

I knew I could rewrite some fairy tales for the collection, and villains in these fairy tales (especially some Disney ones) are incredibly queer-coded," Kay says.

The result is a collection that moves away from the Japanese haibun form of her Robert Kroetsch Award for Poetry-winning first collection, *Transcribing Moonlight*, toward something that draws on punk and riot grrrl tradition.

"My first collection felt quite soft and gentle, maybe even elegant. It kind of held the reader's hand through my experience as a trans woman, highlighting inner turmoil and growth," Kay says.

"*There's Magic Here Too* just did not feel like that to me. It's less of a dignified silence and more of a bloody scream for people to wake up before things get worse."

Writing and editing these poems was an exercise in anger, humour, community, and self-expression for Kay. It was also a way to work through her return to Calgary.

"I had such an amazing community in Windsor," Kay notes. "It was the first time in my life that I was really able to surround myself with that many queer folk, especially trans folk. Part of my return home meant I needed to find that community again and the literary community was actually a huge help in that regard, so I am forever grateful."

In addition to finding work as assistant editor at *FreeFall* magazine and publicist at Frontenac House, Kay was the recipient of a 2024 Emerging Artist Award through the

Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards.

"Freelancing in the literary scene has allowed me to focus on my craft a lot more than I could afford otherwise, and I think that is incredible," Kay notes. "As much as I loved the people I met in Windsor, I think coming back to Calgary was the right move for me.

"Plus, I love the mountains." 🌲



Skylar Kay



MORE POETRY

ABODE

Jun-long Lee

This debut collection, as befits its inclusion in the Mingling Voices series, defies convention in its interconnected prose and free verse poems that examine ideas of homes – ways in and out, ruins, caves, cathedrals – in dreamlike, fluid, and remarkable images and movements.

(Athabasca University Press, \$19.99 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-446-0, available as ebook)

CONTRABAND BODIES

Jide Salawu

Nigerian-raised, Edmonton-based Salawu explores migration, displacement, digital kinship, and ideas of home in this debut collection of elegiac and resistant poems that cross borders and map memories in images of bodies and birds, of roads and rivers. (NeWest Press, \$20.95 pb, 84 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-126-6, available as ebook)

CROHNIC

Jason Purcell

Charting two years of treatment for Crohn's disease, these poems explore the landscape of a medicated life. The speaker connects deeply with the forest and rivers, learning from the cycles of life, most particularly the winter, a time of rest and waiting, and draws parallels between the degradation of the land and of the body. (Arsenal Pulp Press, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-83405-010-2, available as ebook)

IF I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A KNIFE

Carley Mayson

The speaker of these candid and often brutal poems traces

her journey from the traumas of childhood and mental illness, through self-harming and addictions, to withdrawal and rehab and finally a life of love – where windows are still dangerous, as songbirds show, but through which she can now see hope and a future. (Frontenac House Poetry, \$22.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-997580-00-3, available as ebook)

I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT: POEMS ON WORKING LIFE IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Edited by The Land and Labour Poetry Collective

This anthology uses poetry as a tool for building solidarity and climate justice among working people. The poets included are incredibly diverse in jobs, backgrounds, and perspectives, including Indigenous, migrant, disabled, queer, and racialized, and the poems range in form from spoken word to concrete, pantoum to free verse, and protest song to prose poems. (Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$26.00 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-744-0)

LEAF COUNTER

D. A. Lockhart

Lockhart brings an Indigenous perspective to the colonial and Loyalist history and poetic mythology of Prince Edward County and Al Purdy's A-frame home, which currently serves as a writer's residency. The poems weave stories of 19th-century soldiers and politicians with traditional stories of Sky Woman, contrast the song of the goldfinch (the titular Leaf Counter) with constant military planes flying overhead, and draw on Purdy's correspondence and work. (Frontenac House Poetry, \$22.95 pb, 148 pages, ISBN: 978-1-997580-03-4, available as ebook)

PROCESSION

katherena vermette

Moving from a 1980s childhood to middle age, vermette explores what it means to be one part of a long line of women – and how to honour that by creating literature, by acknowledging and carrying one's sovereign and sacred body, by forging connections with family and friends, and by learning to grow into oneself and to grow old. (House of Anansi Press, \$22.99 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1352-3, available as ebook)

SEEING THINGS

George Amabile

Amabile's 13th book of poetry is a poetic journey through clarity and distortion, presence and memory, grief and wonder. Whether contemplating the current political climate, examining mundane objects, or reflecting on past experiences, these poems

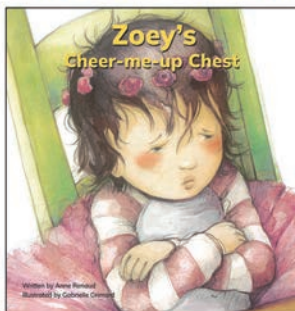
probe to see what lies beneath the visible world and celebrate the practice of looking closer. (Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77324-167-8)

WHAT IS BROKEN BINDS US

Lorne Daniel

In these evocative poems, Daniel portrays various traumas – bodily injury, addiction, family estrangement, loss of landscape, the effects of slavery and colonialism – and how healing and hope are found in the resulting connection to the land and to others. (University of Calgary Press, \$18.99 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-639-1, available as ebook)

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"Before you came, I wished you beneath the night sky. I called to you, not yet knowing your name. My love did not know where to go. Then, from the moment you came, nothing was the same..."

BEFORE YOU CAME reads like a lullaby, honouring the many faces of parenthood and the universal bond between caregiver and child — a bond that is both an anchor and a home. Peanut Butter Press, \$17.95, hc, 28 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927735-90-9

Available for purchase from any Canadian wholesaler, bookstore, or via PayPal at:

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Non-linear play about bipolar disorder casts audience in role of silent therapist

Performance developed in collaboration with people with lived experience

by Luis Reis

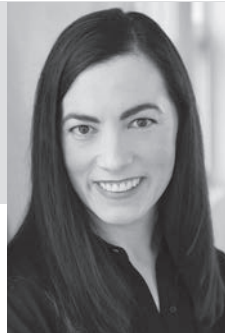
MERMAID LEGS

Beth Graham

Playwrights Canada Press

\$18.95 pb, 88 pages

ISBN: 978-0-3691-0567-7



Beth Graham

Edmonton-based playwright Beth Graham says it wasn't her idea to tackle the stigma and challenges of mental illness and the impact it has on a family.

She was commissioned by Annette Loiselle, the artistic director at SkirtsAfire, an Edmonton theatre festival, to write a play about mental illness, specifically bipolar disorder.

"I was interested, but I was wary about writing on a subject I had limited experience with, so I began to interview people who live with bipolar disorder, along with their friends and family. From these interviews, fictionalized characters began to take shape, and I was compelled to write," says Graham.

"As I wrote, I had their voices in my head, and it was important to me that I represent them as authentically as I could. Their collaboration was intrinsic to the play's development."

People with lived experience read the script and attended a rehearsal of the first draft, and adjustments were made based on their feedback. "I could never have written the play

without their generosity, input, and support," says Graham.

Mermaid Legs is set in a therapist's office where three sisters, Billie, Ava, and Scarlett, talk to the therapist about past events, creating a non-linear memory play, moving fluidly between the present and the past.

"Relating events in a non-linear manner allowed me to mimic how memory works and to reveal the complicated history of the sisters' relationships," says Graham.

"It felt like the story needed to be told in an emotional, fragmented way rather than in a straightforward, narrative way. Telling the story in this manner felt more active and unpredictable, and it gave the story momentum."

The character of the silent therapist represents the audience, says Graham. "It is a device to give the sisters a reason to break the

fourth wall and address the audience directly. Billie, Ava, and Scarlett are able to share their thoughts and feelings aloud within the reality of a therapist's office.

"I hope the conceit also encourages the audience to listen actively, as a therapist might."

Another device used deliberately and to powerful effect is that of poetic language, which grew from Graham's collaboration with the choreographer, Ainsley Hillyard, during the premiere production.

"From my understanding, everyone experiences mental illness in their own unique way. Poetic language and metaphor allowed for nuance and personal interpretation."

BETH GRAHAM

"In that production, there were three dancers who embodied the interior life of the main character Billie. Ainsley found the more poetic and abstract writing inspiring, and so I tried incorporating poetic text more and more as the play developed," she explains.

The imagistic language also fits the character of Billie. "Billie is a creative person and has a unique way of seeing and interacting with the world," Graham says. "From my understanding, everyone



CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

experiences mental illness in their own unique way. Poetic language and metaphor allowed for nuance and personal interpretation.”

While every play is a challenge to write, Graham says, “*Mermaid Legs* was challenging because I wanted to make sure I was honouring the experience of people living with bipolar, as well as their friends and family.

“As a playwright, it’s my job to imagine another person’s life as fully as I can. It’s a gift to be able to attempt this with each new play I write.” 🌿

MORE DRAMA

THE ART OF WAR

Yvette Nolan

This exploration of the role of artists in times of war and peace tells the story of Nick, an embedded Canadian artist in the Second World War tasked with capturing the horror on canvas, who goes on a surreal journey and discovers the power of his art. Nick’s story is framed by Heather’s lecture in 2005, wherein she argues that the war made Canadian artists and Canadian artists made Canada.

(Playwrights Canada Press, \$18.95 pb, 84 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3691-0558-5)

THE CULL

Michele Riml and Michael St. John Smith

Three couples gather to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of one of them, and they discuss marriage, money, climate change, and human nature, along the way discovering their true values and how they’ve been hidden, compromised, challenged and cherished.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 90 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-73-9)

THE RECIPE

Armin Wiebe

This play explores issues of social class, property, body image, sexism, and a woman’s reproductive options through the dilemmas of Oata Needarp (engaged to Yasch Siemens, but reconsidering that decision) and Sadie Nickel, who are both pregnant. The solution may lie in Oata’s recipe handed down from her mother, and in the forging of female friendships and the building of self-esteem. (Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 90 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-74-6)

VIERGE

Rachel Mutombo

Four Congolese-Canadian teenage girls meet in a church group. Divine tries to lead them in the ways of Jesus, but Bien-Aimé, Grace, and Sarah more persuasively lead Divine into a world of boys and parties, where barely established friendships are threatened by secrets and gossip.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$18.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990738-72-2)



ISBN: 978-1-988783-91-8

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by Rud Verhagen

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Found poetry traces stories from the tar sands to transform colonial record

Collection interprets work from 'father of the tar sands' to build a counternarrative

by Sarah Ens

GOOSE

Melanie Dennis Unrau

Assembly Press

\$22.95 pb, 128 pages

ISBN: 978-1-998336-21-0

Melanie Dennis Unrau's imaginative and incisive poetry collection *Goose* retraces the steps of Sidney Clarke Ells, the self-proclaimed "father of the tar sands," by literally tracing the text and images from *Northland Trails*, his book of short stories, poems, illustrations, and essays published in 1938.

Recontextualizing and reinterpreting Ells's archive, *Goose* flies in the face of settler-colonial narratives, giving voice to the land and labourers Ells exploited in his work and writing.

"This book started with the idea that Ells may have liked to think of himself as a goose," the Winnipeg poet says.

"Geese feature more than any other non-human creature in *Northland Trails*. They represent him, an occasional northern resident who migrated between Ottawa and Fort McMurray and who was known for his discipline and his abrasive, loud personality (his honking, if you will).

"But the geese are also real geese who exist without and beyond Ells, so detaching them from the stories, sentences, and settings Ells puts them in allows them to trouble, exceed, and diverge from Ells's intentions for them."

Unrau accomplished this "detaching" by selecting words and images from the 1956 edition of Ells's book and tracing them onto thin sheets of paper in new combinations and configurations, transforming *Northland Trails* into a powerful critique of past and present environmental and human destruction.

A foreword from the McMurray Métis centres the Indigenous presence that defies Ells's efforts and claims. In *Northland Trails*, Ells tells of how he "helped" a team

of Métis and First Nations trackers (fur-trade-era labourers) tow a boatload of tar sand along the Athabasca River from Fort McMurray to Athabasca.

"Ells knew how to make himself sound like a hero and the labourers sound incompetent, but that is only one way of telling the story," Unrau says.

She decided to find a counternarrative. "I had the

privilege this year of visiting the McMurray Métis and meeting three Elders, Frank LaCaille, Leonard Hansen, and Harvey Sykes, who have worked on the Athabasca River and who could speak to a Métis perspective on the river and to what tracking would have been like," Unrau says.

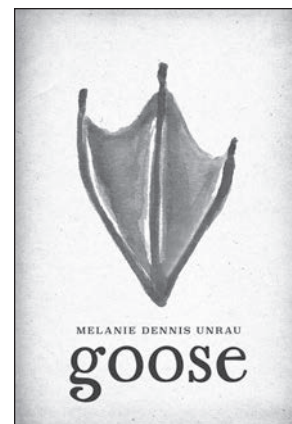
"I am so grateful to open *Goose* with a foreword that celebrates and foregrounds Indigenous perspectives on the river, the trackers, the land, and the tar sands."

While Ells portrays northern Canada as empty and primitive, *Goose* evokes a storied landscape.

"The land is already there in *Northland Trails*, making itself known and having its own things to say. It's not containable in the ways Ells wants it to be," says Unrau.

"For example, [in *Goose*] I work with one of Ells's illustrations that has a banner celebrating the colonial impulse to conquer 'Canada's Last Great North.' I omit everything but the embedded word *No* to highlight the land's resistance to colonization and extraction."

Deconstructing Ells's record of Canada's oil-sands industry and himself as its founder, *Goose* provokes readers to ask, as Unrau does, "What is Ells saying about himself and his relationship to the things he writes about and draws? And what is my relationship to those things?"



Melanie Dennis Unrau

JASON UNRAU

Origin story of Alberta's oil culture shares 'chaotic mix' of ambition, hype, and a dash of fraud

Deep dive into George Buck written for academics, and anyone who likes a good story

by Paula E. Kirman

THE BOOM:

Oil, Popular Culture, and Politics in Alberta, 1912–1924

Paul Chastko

University of Calgary Press

\$44.99 pb, 504 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77385-667-4

Available as an ebook

Alberta and the oil boom are virtually synonymous. Those who study history may know that more than 500 oil companies emerged in Turner Valley following the start of the operation of the first well in 1914.



Paul Chastko

What they may not know is how shady oil tycoons – charlatans like George Edward Buck – profited from the Turner Valley boom's wide publicity by misleading investors and engaging in other unscrupulous activities.

In *The Boom: Oil, Popular Culture, and Politics in Alberta, 1912–1924*, Paul Chastko, an associate professor of history at the University of Calgary, profiles Buck and other figures who were led by greed while Alberta's oil culture was in its early days.

The Boom is not the book that Chastko originally set out to write. He had been working on a broader project related to Alberta's politics and oil culture when he decided that he needed to go back and include the first big boom: Turner Valley in 1914.

"At most," he explains, "I figured I would get part of a chapter out of the material. While going through the digitized newspaper collection at the University of Calgary libraries, I stumbled across a few ads for Black Diamond Oil Fields that were really striking for their tone and confidence, so I started looking up other articles on George Buck, the owner of the company, and the stories became

increasingly colourful and outrageous."

Chastko realized that he had discovered a compelling story that needed to be told.

"In many ways, this is the 'origin story' of Alberta's petroleum culture that takes place well before the Leduc discovery in 1947 and where Calgarians, in the words of one reporter, took to oil 'like a wino to the bottle.'"

He explains the essential elements of this culture: "Despite the vicious boom and bust cycle of the oil patch, Albertans made a conscious choice to pursue developing an oil industry dominated by independent producers and wildcatters because it accorded with the province's entrepreneurial spirit and individualist beliefs."

While a scholarly book, *The Boom* also appeals to a broader audience. "For academics, it offers a discussion of how petroleum culture has influenced and shaped public attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs in the province. But I hope that the book has crossover appeal to a general audience that wants to hear a good story and maybe find out a little bit more about Alberta and the oil industry along the way," Chastko says.

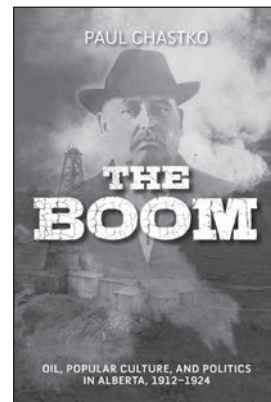
The Boom will give readers a nuanced understanding of Alberta's early oil industry. "Rather than simply celebrating the big successes, it digs into the chaotic mix of ambition, hype, and even a bit of the fraud that characterized the first oil boom in Turner Valley," Chastko explains.

"By spotlighting figures like George Buck, the book reveals how these under-the-radar characters and risky ventures helped shape Alberta's oil culture."

Alberta's oil story is complex. "It's not just about drilling and discovery – it's about people, politics, culture, and the choices made along the way," says Chastko.

"And understanding that complexity is crucial, especially as we navigate current debates about energy and the environment."

Together with this understanding, Chastko hopes readers "come away with new questions about how we got here – and where we might be headed next." 🐾



Play examines themes of friendship, power through unplanned pregnancy in a work camp

Profit-driven approach to resources shadows surrogacy offer, as even human lives have a price

by Rowan McCandless

BOOM BABY

Natalie Meisner

Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing

\$18.95 pb, 90 pages

ISBN: 978-1-990738-75-3

Boom Baby, a play by Calgary-based playwright Natalie Meisner, tells a story of friendship and power, set in the oil fields of Alberta.

Iona, a woman in her 20s, is working as a heavy equipment operator when she has an unplanned pregnancy after a casual sexual encounter with a friend.

Raising a child in the rough work camp is not an option, so she's left with having an abortion – which her friend Hort is willing to help with – or carrying the baby to term and giving it up for adoption to a couple who work higher up in the company as an engineer and a communications person. Her friend Justin, the father, doesn't like either of these options.

The three friends, like Meisner, came west from the East Coast, and the parallels between commercial fishing and oil extraction are clear.

“Having lived a good chunk of my life in a place intimately wound up with the fishery (and its collapse) and the following in a place where the same is true with oil and gas, I was led toward thinking about how and where those two resources meet up,” says Meisner.

“Both are incredibly dangerous and physically demanding for the front-line workers in the field. Both are so lucrative that they forever alter the landscape that they touch.



“If we see the earth, the water, the ecosystem, and all the life on it as a ‘resource’ alone, of course we become spiritually, emotionally, and eventually even materially poor.”

Boom Baby grounds these big issues in the very personal story of one young woman who was born into intergenerational exploitation and poverty and who sees work as a way out.

“When she becomes pregnant, she fears losing her perilous freedom. Pregnancy makes you, well, very, very encumbered, but in the best possible way, as it attaches your heart, guts, mind, spirit to the future and the world,” says Meisner.

Natalie Meisner

The offer to be paid to act as a surrogate mother for Brooke and Owen, who are experiencing infertility, highlights the way everything is considered a resource and can be measured in dollars and cents – even a human life. Iona must consider all that she stands to gain, lose, or barter.

“Well to me, it just doesn’t get bigger in terms of stakes,” says Meisner.

But the negotiations between Brooke and Iona play out in a way that works to dismantle broken systems. “I wanted to shake up/question the way that ethics of care seem to be so inflected by rigid gendered/familial and societal roles,” says Meisner.

“We can’t make change or resist power dynamics until we develop the language/the stories to name them. The characters in this play are all, in their way, fighting to do so.”

These characters and the relationships they forge point the way forward. “We need to lean into collaboration and social solutions to the big pressing future issues,” Meisner says.

“The door is open to everyone in terms of honouring the earth and looking out for future generations.” 🌱

Elder, former chief Robert Cree fought for First Nations to benefit from resource development

Through memoir, Cree shares how he negotiated deals with major oil players

by Sarah Seroy

THE MANY NAMES OF ROBERT CREE:

How a First Nations Chief Brought Ancient Wisdom to Big Business and Prosperity to His People

Robert Cree with Therese Greenwood

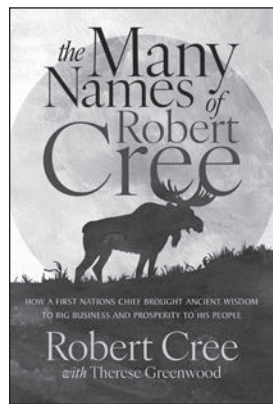
ECW Press

\$26.95 pb, 328 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77041-830-1

Available as an ebook

In his memoir *The Many Names of Robert Cree: How a First Nations Chief Brought Ancient Wisdom to Big Business and Prosperity to His People*, Elder and former chief Robert Cree shares his harrowing involvement in the Sixties Scoop and the residential school system, his later struggles with addiction, and his journey toward healing and reconnecting with his culture.



He also recounts his time as chief of Fort McMurray First Nation, his dealings with the oil industry, and his efforts to bring economic opportunities to his community. Ultimately, this is a deeply moving story of forgiveness and healing.

The memoir is a collaborative effort between Cree and author Therese Greenwood. The two worked together at the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo and would often share life stories over coffee.

“As soon as I heard some of Robert’s incredible story, I knew other people needed to hear it, and he graciously agreed to work together,” Greenwood recalls.

Cree was elected chief of Fort McMurray First Nation in 1980 at the age of 27, and he immediately set to work providing development opportunities for his community.

“I have always felt that something was not right with the way the government treated the First Peoples of this country.



Robert Cree



Therese Greenwood

First of all, there was never any sharing of the revenue that they make out of the resources that they’ve been helping themselves to,” Cree explains. He advocated for his community to have more involvement in projects affecting the First Nation.

Cree developed employment deals with Syncrude, a major player in the oil sands. “We’d send our people to school, get them upgraded, get them some kind of a degree so they can go to work. And then we had, I think it was 13 per cent Indigenous employment at Syncrude,” he says.

Cree’s impact on industrial projects in his community continued. When Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries began logging in the area, Cree encouraged them to do so in a zigzag pattern to protect the wildlife and

traditional medicines.

Incorporating traditional Indigenous wisdom in such projects is important to Cree. “The only way this thing is going to work is if science and the Elders or the Knowledge Keepers come together and work together,” he says.

It is difficult to balance the protection of Indigenous and environmental rights with economic development. But, Cree insists, “You can do both things at the same time. Doesn’t need to be a political matter happening. If you want to sustain yourself as a community, as a nation, you have to work with it. You have to get something going for your community.”

Cree’s memoir of healing, forgiveness, and resilience will connect readers to larger issues facing Indigenous communities and resonate with them emotionally.

“He is guiding us along a simple path to a better world, and he is a living example of how to walk it, with dignity, empathy, and understanding for everyone. His commitment to the interconnectedness of humanity will resonate deeply with readers,” Greenwood says.

Cree has more basic hopes for his story, and simply says, “Whoever is going to be reading my book, enjoy it.” 🌿

At Bay sniffs out stories from emerging authors that 'are just meant to be published'

Indie publisher promotes books in wide range of genres through podcast, fun ephemera

by Ian Goodwillie

There are stories that are just begging to be told. They can be interesting, quirky, or just downright strange. Those stories can even be from completely different genres. What connects them is the fact that they need to be out in the world, ready and waiting to be read by the right people.

That's why publishers like At Bay Press exist.

The bigger, more traditional publishing houses aren't always willing to take a chance on new authors with something to say and a story in their hearts. At Bay Press publisher Matt Joudrey seems to look for that exact type of author.

When asked about the types of writers and stories he's looking for, Joudrey's answer is both grand and precise at the same time. "There is a special human connection to books, and we look at building those connections. Some stories are just meant to be published, and we try really hard to sniff that out, give it a platform, and share with the world."

The question of why Joudrey is in this business has an even simpler answer: "We love it beyond understanding." That's the kind of passion an author wants in an independent publisher. And At Bay has been using that intensity to put incredible stories into the world for almost 20 years.

Currently based in Winnipeg, At Bay was formed in Toronto in 2008. It publishes a range of poetry, graphic novels, and contemporary fiction, in addition to non-fiction titles.

Ten years ago, the company published *Woman: An Anthology*, which featured contributions from the likes of



Lynn Coady, Alice Munro, and Stephen King. The book would go on to receive an IPPY gold medal as one of the Independent Publisher "Independent Spirit" Outstanding Books of the Year.

While accustomed to working with big-name, heavyweight writers, the bread and butter of At Bay's publications are emerging, first-time authors, such as Olivia Van Guinn, whose debut novel will be published

this fall. In particular, the company gets a great deal of positive attention for its poetry publications, and next year's lineup will include melanie brannagan frederiksen's first full-length collection.

Not only does At Bay do an exceptional job of choosing writers to work with, but they are also masters of book design.

"We are always striving to make things better and to improve, and that includes design," says Joudrey. "It's such an integral part of what we do and how our books are perceived by readers. We see it as part of the reading experience, not a separate consideration."

Beyond the physical books,

At Bay puts out a podcast called *The Front Matter*.

"Everybody has a podcast – we didn't want to be left out,"



"We love to explore what a book can offer and other tangibles that add value and interest. Ephemera is part of that, and perhaps informed a bit by our own predilections for collecting." MATT JOUDREY

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says Joudrey. “Also, we love the sound of our own voice too much.”

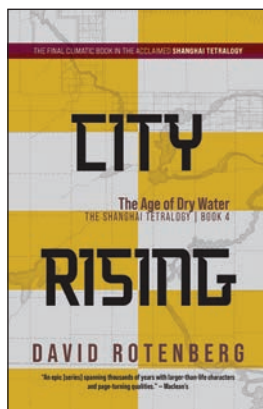
The podcast’s real purpose plays into their desire to tell great stories and promote their authors. *The Front Matter* is another important tool in that arsenal.

The same is true of the ephemera, such as autographed dust jackets, available to purchase on their website.

For Joudrey, that is an extension of the publishing process. “We love to explore what a book can offer and other tangibles that add value and interest. Ephemera is part of that, and perhaps informed a bit by our own predilections for collecting.”

That collector’s eye is evident throughout At Bay’s work. Collectors are always interested in something special and of high quality – that effectively describes everything At Bay does.

Publishing has never been an easy business, and it has gotten more difficult for smaller houses, particularly in



recent years. But the literary industry as a whole needs publishers like At Bay Press that are willing to take chances.

This is a company that distributes its books to over 100 countries around the world, after all. For a new author putting their first work of contemporary fiction out, a graphic novel artist craving international exposure at comic conventions, or a poet taking a chance on their vision, it’s important to have someone with the scope and experience of At Bay at their side.

It’s impossible to tell what the future holds for At Bay, but Joudrey is optimistic. “Bright!

I mean, sure we’ve stepped over a few dead bodies to get here, but that’s par for the course.”

While he’s most likely joking about that, he also sees the future of At Bay with a realistic gaze. He says, “That all depends on readers, but we’re far from giving up.”

FALL/WINTER TITLES FROM AT BAY PRESS

APRIL SNOW

Olivia Van Guinn

This noirish debut novel explores the idea of soulmates in the story of Edward Montgomery and Fay Burgess, who were inseparable throughout their childhood and adolescence, and vowed to be together forever. When Ed went away to law school, he broke Fay’s heart, and returned to find Hillsborough a different place, and Fay on the other side of the law – but even as arch-enemies, the two cannot let each other go. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-84-0)

CITY RISING: THE AGE OF DRY WATER, THE SHANGHAI TETRALOGY, BOOK 4

David Rotenberg

The climactic conclusion of the acclaimed epic series spanning 200 years sees the end of the battles of the opium lords and the powerful British company. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 376 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-85-7)

HOW ABOUT THIS . . . ?

Michael Mirolla

Set in a disintegrating world sometime after the middle of the 21st century, this sci-fi mystery uses false starts, footnotes, lists, and other metanarrative devices to

tell the story about how difficult it is to tell the story of Elspeth and Marybeth, who are forced and excited to raise a set of identical twins left on their deck. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-86-4)

HUNTING HISTORY: A WRITER’S ODYSSEY

Erna Paris

Blending investigative journalism with memoir, Paris traces a lifelong quest to understand the psychological and cultural forces that shape the best and worst of human behaviour, a quest that includes a visit to a Nazi death camp, encounters with perpetrators of atrocities and their victims, and meetings with determined activists and wily propagandists, exploring how history is remembered, manipulated, and used to guide the future. (At Bay Press, \$34.95 hc, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-88-8)

MAN IN THE SHADOWS

Gordon Henderson

This prequel to the historical epic *Out of the Shadows* builds on the complicated history of the assassination of Canada’s most eloquent Father of Confederation, and former Irish nationalist, Thomas D’Arcy McGee. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-90-1)

MARY AND HER MÉTIS GRANDMA

Rita Jasper

A work of autofiction, this book has two narratives, one following Mary’s life in the 1980s as she spends her teenage years with her grandmother, who supports her with a powerful love, and the second the story of her grandmother’s life beginning at the turn of the 20th century. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-89-5)

ONLY THE SCENT OF YOU REMAINED

Duncan R. Mercredi

In his latest collection, the former Poet Laureate of Winnipeg offers up a balanced truth by reflecting back on his life, the roads taken that led him to Winnipeg, and the people who have influenced him. (At Bay Press, \$24.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-87-1)

SCREAMING OBSCENITIES AT THE SKY

Christian McPherson

Part graphic novel and part artistic madness, this book is an exciting visual experience, a psychedelic and satirical journey to the centre of a mind that is funny, honest, and electrifying. (At Bay Press, \$26.95 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-998779-83-3)

Writing is ‘ritual and resistance’ as poet shares family’s daily struggle in Gaza

Mahmoud Al-Shaer’s words, begun through fundraiser, stand as a refusal to vanish

by David Jón Fuller

A YEAR ON THE ABYSS OF GENOCIDE

Mahmoud Al-Shaer

Editor’s note by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, foreword by Nasrin Himada, afterword by Fadi Ennab
Arbeiter Ring Publishing

\$25.00 pb, 136 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927886-98-4

Available as an ebook

For hundreds of thousands in Gaza, the Israeli military campaign following the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas has been a continuation of the Israeli government’s doctrine of settler-colonialism. Recent UN estimates show more than 684,000 Palestinians have been displaced, and 93 per cent of households face water insecurity.

One of those households is that of Mahmoud Al-Shaer, who began an online fundraiser in January 2024. Regular updates on his family’s experiences became the core of his new book, *A Year on the Abyss of Genocide*.

Al-Shaer is a longtime poet and writer known for his work editing the literary journal *28 Magazine*, curating Gallery 28, and coordinating the cultural program at Al-Ghussein House in Gaza’s old city.

He also served as guest curator of the Palestine Festival of Literature in 2023, at which time he connected with Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg musician, writer, and academic, who was invited to participate. Simpson, who holds a PhD from the University of Manitoba, is a fellow ARP Books author and the editor of *Abyss*.

Over the year recounted in *Abyss*, Al-Shaer writes of his family’s daily struggle to find food, water, and electricity, among other necessities. He and his wife Hadil strive to raise their daughter Nai. Their son Majd was taken to Turkey by Al-Shaer’s mother for critical medical treatment

in November 2023 and remains there.

Al-Shaer and his family’s own attempts to leave Gaza and reunite are thwarted. They lose their home when they are removed to be taken to a camp, where conditions are even worse; they have been displaced six times since May 2024.

“Hunger dominates our days,” he says, in an interview via email from Gaza in July 2025. “Fear anchors our nights. We haven’t stepped outside in over two weeks due to the escalating violence and the collapse of public order.

“What sustains us is hope: the possibility, however faint, that we will be granted permission to evacuate. Until then, we live on the edge of survival.”

The ongoing events beggar the imagination. “From the beginning, this genocide has demanded of us not survival – but the ability to narrate survival in real time,” Al-Shaer says.

“When the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital was bombed and over 600 people were killed in one night, I realized: there is no sanctuary, no immunity. We all became moving targets.”

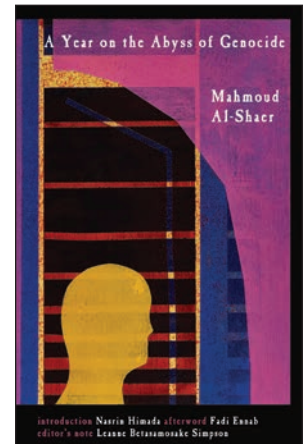
His accounts, as difficult as they were to write, and to read, were at least an action he could take. “Writing, for me, became both ritual and resistance,” he says.

Support through his GoFundMe fundraiser has helped pay for Majd’s medical treatment and his mother’s chemotherapy.

“I remember the day friends visited my mother’s bedside and held her hand, while others stood beside Majd in another ward, in another hospital,” he says. “That solidarity kept us alive.”

As for what Al-Shaer hopes readers will take from *Abyss*, he says, “This is not just a book – it’s my archive of survival. I don’t know if I’ll live to see a future where I can heal. But I know that these words, collected over hundreds of days, speak of a life that refused to vanish. I hope the book proves, simply, that we are not ‘human animals’ [as the former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant called us].

“That we are poets, parents, lovers, and dreamers. That we resist not only bombs but silence.”



Mahmoud Al-Shaer

Ecologist's memoir offers reflection, hope in the face of climate catastrophe

To change how we relate to the natural world, 'we need better stories,' Van Tighem says

by Brock Peters

UNDERSTORY:

An Ecologist's Memoir of Loss and Hope

Kevin Van Tighem

Rocky Mountain Books

\$28.00 pb, 320 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77160-745-2

Available as an ebook

There is light in the understory, but darkness too," writes Alberta-based conservationist, ecologist, and author Kevin Van Tighem. After retiring from a career in western Canada's national parks, he found himself reflecting on the meaning of "a long life journey immersed in the nature of my home place."

In *Understory: An Ecologist's Memoir of Loss and Hope*, Van Tighem offers up a narrative that is both a memoir and an exploration of the stories that form our world view – and particularly our understanding of nature.

"We live inside stories," Van Tighem says. "If we want to live better, then we need better stories."

Part of telling ourselves better stories about the world around us – and recovering those stories disenfranchised by forces like colonialism – requires challenging our sense of normality.

"I think the whole concept of normal becomes suspect when one's relationships are unhealthy," says Van Tighem. He is eager to challenge such norms as the concept of "natural resources," the killing of predatory animals, and the way our culture relates to nature itself.

Throughout *Understory*, the author examines both human relationships and our relationships with nature, while challenging the paradigm through which one claims dominion over the other.

"We have no choice but to live and fight within the system as it exists, but at the same time we also have to do the deeper, more spiritual work of changing the way in which we relate to the world," he says.

That deeper, spiritual work involves engaging with nature, regardless of where or how we live. "Nature is everywhere; you just have to be paying attention. We need to find those relations and make their ways of being part of our understanding of the world."

Having held various roles in both front-line ecological conservation and high-level management, Van Tighem has experience navigating conflicting points of view.

"You don't win conservation battles by defeating anyone; you win them by engaging with people, inspiring them, pulling them into new relationships with their world and with each other," he says.

And even within today's often oppositional culture, he believes that it's still possible to change minds – though he suggests that the more salient concern is changing stories.

"We need better stories and new conversations," he says. "I see a non-fiction writer's role as contributing new stories that reinterpret experience, and putting them out there where they can influence the conversations that will shape our culture tomorrow."

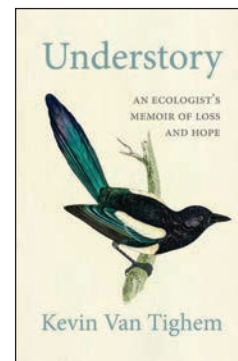
Luckily, there are teachers and guides to help us re-examine and reconstruct stories worthy of our new paradigm. "Nature itself, certainly," is one of them, he says, "but also those Indigenous Peoples who have managed to hold onto their very different world view in spite of all that was done to render it extinct."

In the face of climate catastrophe, Van Tighem offers a corrective that demands personal responsibility, paradigm changes, and that most elusive quality – hope.

"Nobody is trivial, and nobody is who they will be tomorrow," he says. "The world changes because people change."

In *Understory*, Van Tighem shares a lifetime's worth of wisdom about how to make a new understanding of nature a reality.

"Hope is something we build with the stories we make," he says. "Don't look for hope; make it." 🌿



Kevin Van Tighem

Diverse voices explore singular, yet universal, experiences of interruption

Co-editors tackle 'phenomena that unite humanity' in well-curated anthology

by Alicia Chantal

PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT:

An Anthology

Edited by Rona Altrows and Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

Griots Lounge Publishing

\$23.99 pb, 240 pages

ISBN: 978-1-7383340-4-9

Every piece has its own heartbeat, its own personality." This, according to Rona Altrows, is central to *Please Don't Interrupt: An Anthology*.

In this collection, the provocative idea of interruption is showcased in seven thematic sections and left to the interpretation and reflection of 30 contributing writers, including Alberta-based co-editors Altrows and Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike.

"We persist despite interruptions," says Umezurike, an assistant professor in the University of Calgary's Department of English. "We can't do otherwise."

Award-winning writers themselves, Altrows and Umezurike reached out to colleagues in the literary world to gather submissions for the anthology. These writers represent diversity through ethnicity, age, neurodiversity, and background, but all came to the project with stories to tell – some fiction and many non-fiction.

The co-editors were met with great enthusiasm for the project, and though they didn't tell the writers what to submit, they found the themes of interruption came together to create a multi-faceted exploration of the topic.

"What I found rather exciting was the opportunity to appreciate and savour the insight of each contributor in the anthology, whether they are writing about pain and trauma or intimacy and joy," says Umezurike.



Rona Altrows



Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

MCKENNA LAYNE

He is excited for readers to explore the offerings. The contributors' "reflections on interruptions are remarkable and rich with insights," he says.

Please Don't Interrupt also benefits from the editors' enthusiastic support of the anthology as an art form, with its ability to include various perspectives and contribute aesthetic and social value to society.

"We live in a starkly divided and uncertain world, and we need, more than ever, books that deal with the phenomena that unite humanity – such as interruption, a universal experience that takes many forms," says Altrows, who is a fiction writer, essayist, and playwright, and who has edited three previous anthologies.

"We are eager to share with our readers the myriad ways in which interruption may be interpreted."

Some of these interpretations explore past traumas, political upheaval, and the triumph and betrayal of the body.

"Interruption persists anywhere you look, in measly and incremental degrees," Umezurike says. "Many of our contributors contemplated these interruptions in their own way."

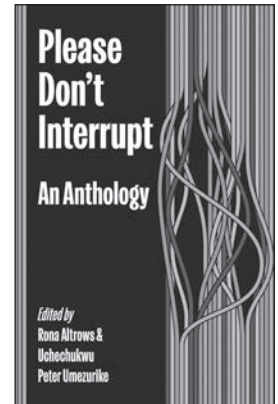
Altrows says her and Umezurike's goals – to build community, promote writing excellence, and provide an opportunity for emerging writers – were met.

The creation of an anthology where voices from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities are represented and heard, and where pieces are written to the highest literary standards, stands as a testament to what they set out to do.

The result is a rich tapestry that invites readers to explore what interruption means through prose, poetry, and hybrid writing that may challenge traditional expectations.

When asked if they view *Please Don't Interrupt* as interrupting the writing and publishing industry, Altrows responds, "If the achievement of those goals by our contributors and by Uche and me as editors is a departure from how things are usually done, so be it.

"We can't singlehandedly reverse biases in the publishing industry, but we can set a good example." 🌿



MORE NON-FICTION

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

CROSSING THE PHANTOM PASS: A CANCER JOURNEY

Julia Kwong

With academic rigour and accessible prose, and centring knowledge as power, Kwong recounts her experience of receiving a breast cancer diagnosis and undergoing treatment while her father is in the last stage of metastasized prostate cancer. She reflects on the medical process and comments on the health-care system while exploring the uniqueness, as well as the commonalities, embedded in each cancer patient's experience. (University of Toronto Press, \$39.95 hc, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4875-6591-6, available as ebook)

FRANK FARLEY AND THE BIRDS OF ALBERTA

Glen Hvenegaard, Jeremy Mouat, and Heather J. Marshall

This biography tells the fascinating life of the well-respected amateur naturalist Frank Farley, who made significant contributions to the fields of ornithology and environmental conservation in the first half of the 20th century in Alberta, showing how a single individual can have a profound effect and revealing that concerns about the environment are not new. (University of Alberta Press, \$32.99 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-823-9, available as ebook)

HOW TO BREATHE WATER

Sharon Butala

In 2021, after a year of pandemic isolation and at the age of 80, Butala joins a friend on a road trip from Calgary to Winnipeg, eager to revisit the Prairies one more time, especially the area in Saskatchewan where she ranched with her husband. Along the way, the sites they visit prompt her to unearth her personal history – her difficult childhood, buried traumas, and complicated relationships. (Freehand Books, \$24.95 pb, 250 pages, ISBN: 978-1-990601-96-5, available as ebook)

A LINE RUNS THROUGH IT: A STORY OF SEXUAL ABUSE, ADDICTION, AND REDEMPTION

Niall Schofield

Schofield, a member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Alberta and adopted into a white family as part of the Sixties Scoop, tells of how he overcame the trauma of childhood sexual assault, drug addiction, and the stigma of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder to regain control of his life and go on to help others. (Wood Dragon Books, 320 pages, \$29.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-990863-85-1; \$21.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-990863-86-8; available as ebook)

STANDING IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF BEASTS

Danica Klewchuk

Part travel diary, part trauma and recovery memoir, this collection of candid and insightful essays explores the author's upbringing in a religious environment in northern Alberta, the abuses of the nightlife industry, and her experiences travelling as a young white woman through Europe, Australia, and Southeast Asia. (NeWest Press, \$23.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-177439-122-8, available as ebook)

WALKING THE BYPASS: NOTES ON PLACE FROM THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Ken Wilson

Drawing on sources and areas of knowledge ranging from philosophical, sociological, and Indigenous to ecological, historical, and literary, this very engaging and reflective book recounts Wilson's experience walking the pedestrian-unfriendly Regina Bypass with the aim of learning from and building a relationship with the land, while situating the highway within the ongoing history of settler colonialism in southern Saskatchewan. (University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-076-5, available as ebook)

WHERE THE CHERRIES END UP: A MEMOIR

Sandra Ramberran

This courageous memoir tells of how Ramberran reclaimed her identity after a life of ugliness, exploitation, and abuse, beginning with being raped at age 14, and then being groomed for prostitution. (Wood Dragon Books, 216 pages, \$33.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-990863-77-6; \$19.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-990863-76-9; available as ebook)

GENERAL NON-FICTION

THE A WORD: A GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE ABORTION STRUGGLE

Elizabeth Casillas and Higinia Gray, translated by Karen Simon

First published in Spanish, this history of abortion is presented in comics form, making it accessible and concise, as it covers exactly what is meant by the term, together with a global history of the practice and legality of abortion as well as more specific histories in Canada and the United States, focusing on the stories of figures and pivotal moments in the struggle for women's reproductive rights. (University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-0963, available as ebook)

BEHIND THE BRICKS: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE MOHAWK INSTITUTE, CANADA'S LONGEST-RUNNING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Edited by Richard W. Hill Sr., Alison Norman, Thomas Peace, and Jennifer Pettit
Conceived of and overseen by Six Nations community member Richard W. Hill Sr., this important work provides deep insight into the Mohawk Institute, which operated from 1828 to 1970 in Brantford, Ontario, and which was seen as a model for the residential school system. (University of Calgary Press, 402 pages, with illustrations, \$84.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-651-3; \$42.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-652-0; available as ebook)

BLOODIED BODIES, BLOODY LANDSCAPES: SETTLER COLONIALISM IN HORROR

Laura Hall

This book analyzes how horror films reveal the brutality of settler colonial violence, showing the connections between horror tropes such as the savage killer and the feral woman to Indigenous representations, gender, and sexuality, and how Indigenous Peoples as presented as savage threats to civilization rather than as the ones continually under the oppression of colonialism. (University of Regina Press, \$32.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-080-2, available as ebook)

**BUILDING BRIDGES: A BIG CITY MAYOR
REFLECTS ON LEADERSHIP**

Donald J. Atchison

Saskatoon's longest-serving mayor offers leaders of the future an understanding of what to expect in civic politics, gives general readers an understanding of what it's like to live the life of a politician, and explores the history of the development of Saskatoon. (Wood Dragon Books, 180 pages, \$31.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-990863-84-4; \$19.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-990863-74-5; available as ebook)

**CHANGING CARE: ADVANCING SOCIAL
JUSTICE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

Edited by Jennifer Brady and Jacqui Gingras

Through a blend of research, case studies, and personal stories, health-care practitioners present unique and diverse perspectives on the effects of structural injustice in the health-care system and offer practical strategies and solutions that can be applied in an everyday practice and beyond traditional health-care settings. (University of Regina Press, \$45.95 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 9781-77940-072-7, available as ebook)

**COLONIAL LAND LEGACIES IN THE
PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING WORLD**

Edited by Susanna Barnes and
Laura S. Meitzner Yoder

Through ethnographic, historical, and legal lenses, the case studies in this book present a comparative exploration of the enduring impacts of Portuguese colonial land governance in Portugal and across five former Portuguese colonies: Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Flores, and Portuguese Timor. (University of Calgary Press, 384 pages, \$84.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-632-2; \$44.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-633-9; available as ebook)

**CONSERVATION CONFIDENTIAL: A BIOLOGIST
INVESTIGATES THE CLASH BETWEEN
PROGRESS AND NATURE**

Lorne Fitch

With wit, sharp critique, and vivid storytelling, Fitch explores the clash between environmental stewardship and industries such as forestry, mining, and agriculture, and calls on readers to rethink how to value natural resources – as gifts to protect rather than commodities to exploit. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-753-7, available as ebook)

**CROSSING INTO CANADA: STORIES FROM TWO
GENERATIONS OF US WAR RESISTERS**

Edited by Alison Mountz and Shiva S. Mohan

These powerful first-hand accounts offer an insider look at how two generations of U.S. war resisters – ones fleeing conscription during the war in Vietnam and later ones resisting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq – travelled parallel routes but met very different outcomes when seeking refuge in Canada. (University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-828-4, available as ebook)

**CRUISING THE DOWNTOWN: CELEBRATING
EDMONTON'S QUEER HISTORY**

Edited by Kristopher Wells

Extending the work of The Edmonton Queer History Project, this book is a collaborative history that moves through civic landmarks, sites of queer resistance, nightlife, and activist spaces to celebrate the people, places, and moments that have shaped and continue to shape the thriving 2SLGBTQ+ community in Edmonton. (NeWest Press, \$39.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77439-118-1, available as ebook)

**CURLING ROCKS! CHRONICLES OF THE
ROARING GAME**

John Cullen

This lighthearted, detailed look at the sport of curling and its history recounts everything from ill-fitting fashions and odd scandals to insights on the greatest matches ever played, showing that curling is not only inherently funny, but also chronically underestimated as a sport of skill and strategy. (Douglas & McIntyre, \$26.95 pb, 272 pages, with b/w illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77162-455-8, available as ebook)

**DIVIDED POWER: HOW FEDERALISM
UNDERMINES RECONCILIATION**

Emily Grafton

Grafton argues that Canada's system of federalism, rooted in settler colonialism, has dispossessed Indigenous Peoples for settler benefit. She meticulously traces the ways that federalism limits the potential for reconciliation and proposes alternative power-sharing models. (Fernwood Publishing, \$32.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-772-3)

**FLOW: WOMEN'S COUNTERNARRATIVES FROM
RIVERS, ROCK, AND SKY**

Edited by Denisa Krásná

and Alena Rainsberry

With photography and stories from around the world, *Flow* captures the personal narratives of women from diverse countries who offer insights into the barriers they have faced, and who redefine what's possible in outdoor sports such as whitewater kayaking, climbing, mountaineering, and highlining. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$40.00 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-706-3)

**THE GENOCIDE CONTINUES: POPULATION
CONTROL AND THE STERILIZATION OF
INDIGENOUS WOMEN**

Karen Stote

Stote traces the historical, political, economic, and policy context informing the coerced sterilization of Indigenous women from 1970 onward, showing how federal, provincial, and corporate activities intersected to criminalize and regulate Indigenous reproduction. (Fernwood Publishing, \$36.00 pb, 288 pages, with tables, charts, ISBN: 978-1-77363-769-3)

**THE KEYSTONE PROVINCE: POLITICS AND
GOVERNANCE IN MANITOBA**

Edited by Kelly Saunders and
Christopher Adams

This accessible and engaging analysis looks at Manitoba's political history, context, culture, institutions, processes, communities, sectors, parties, and personalities, from the government of Louis Riel to that of Wab Kinew. (University of Manitoba Press, \$29.95 pb, 306 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77284-122-0, available as ebook)

**LAWLESS: ABORTION UNDER COMPLETE
DECRIMINALIZATION**

Martha Paynter

Paynter clearly and accessibly explains legal definitions to do with abortion, and describes how, despite complete decriminalization in Canada, barriers persist; how policy, practice, and human rights affect abortion delivery; and how to resolve challenges through practical and compassionate improvements to care provision. (Fernwood Publishing, \$30.00 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-750-1)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

LESSONS FROM THE ZAPATISTAS: FROM ARMED INSURGENCY TO PEOPLE'S AUTONOMY

Lia Pinheiro Barbosa and Peter M. Rosset

This up-to-date history of the Zapatista movement of Mayan people in Chiapas, Mexico, provides an in-depth analysis of their revolutionary thought and political theory, attending to the prominent role of women, their practice of social autonomy, and their experiments in education, self-government, and alternative economic development. (Fernwood Publishing, \$26.00 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-769-3)

LISTEN! KNOWING THE WORLD AND FIGHTING TO CHANGE IT

Scott Neigh

Drawing on his 25-year history of writing, radio, and journalistic work grounded in listening to the voices of Canadian activists and organizers, Neigh expands the concept of listening beyond an individual, passive act to an act inherently fundamental to constructing a socially just world. (Fernwood Publishing, \$29.00 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-756-3)

LITTLE DEATHS: SEX AND PSYCHOANALYSIS IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS

Ricky Varghese

The latest in the Exquisite Corpse series uses the AIDS crisis as a reference point to draw comparisons to and distinctions from the COVID-19 pandemic to answer the questions: What does it mean to have a sex life in the middle of a global health crisis? Are some risks worth taking? (University of Regina Press, \$32.95 pb, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-092-5, available as ebook)

LIVING LANGUAGE RIGHTS: CONSTITUTIONAL PATHWAYS TO INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Lorena Sekwan Fontaine

Fontaine documents the history of First Nations' language transmission on the Prairies, demonstrates how Indigenous language rights are deeply embedded in both First Nations law and Canadian constitutional law, and focuses on education as the path to Indigenous language revitalization. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 264 pages, with b/w illustrations, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-114-5, available as ebook)

THE MATERIAL MIND: REDUCTION AND EMERGENCE

Max Kistler

This book links the question of causal efficacy of cognitive properties and events with issues of their reducibility, with the reality of causal powers, and with a relevant concept of emergence, putting the issue of understanding how the mind fits into the natural order into a broad perspective. (University of Calgary Press, 336 pages, \$168.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-605-6; \$59.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-606-3; available as ebook)

MOUNTAIN VOICES: THE MOUNTAIN LEGACY PROJECT AND A CENTURY OF CHANGE IN WESTERN CANADA

Edited by Eric Higgs, Zac Robinson, Mary Sanseverino, and Kristen Walsh

Alpinists, activists, artists, and mountain researchers share the ways Canadian mountains have affected their lives in this collection of short essays, each accompanied by a pair of photographs from the remarkable archive of the Mountain Legacy Project. (University of Calgary Press, 208 pages, with colour illustrations, \$94.99 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77385-656-8; \$44.99 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77385-657-5; available as ebook)

A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR GOVERNMENT: RESHAPING POWER, THE PMO, AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Kevin G. Lynch and James R. Mitchell

After describing how power has shifted from cabinet to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's Office, with political staff taking on a larger role relative to the public service, and how parliament has lost its ability to call the elected government to account, the authors propose a plan to restore accountability and rebuild a culture of excellence by reshaping government. (University of Regina Press, \$29.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-111-3, available as ebook)

NFL MOMENTS: 125 ICONS AND STORIES THAT DEFINE THE NFL

Allan Maki and George Johnson

Through snappy prose and historical photographs, this book presents the NFL's larger-than-life characters and defining moments from its 105-year history, including the founding of the NFL, the

stories of the Forgotten Four and the emergence of Black athletes, Joe Namath's guarantee, and the unrivalled and improvisational skills of Patrick Mahomes. (Firefly Books, \$29.95 pb, 240 pages, with full-colour and b/w photos, sidebars, index, ISBN: 978-0-2281-0572-5)

ON SETTLER COLONIALISM IN CANADA: LANDS AND PEOPLES

Edited by David MacDonald and Emily Grafton

Featuring perspectives of diverse thinkers from a range of disciplines, this first book in a two-part project (the second part focuses on actions) examines how settler identities are fashioned in opposition to nature, how they have come to be predicated on racialization and white supremacy, and how they have been constructed in relation to multiculturalism. (University of Regina Press, \$36.95 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77940-064-2, available as ebook)

OTTAWOLOGY

Tonya K. Davidson

Offering a template for how to scrutinize the interactions between the weight of history and the motion of everyday life in a city, Davidson takes readers on a tour through Canada's capital city, which is populated not only by government workers and power brokers, but also by students, seniors, eels, turtles, and skaters, as she tells stories of nightlife, policing, play, libraries, rivers, and malls to show how social structures, sustainability, and social life intersect. (Fernwood Publishing, \$29.00 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-760-0)

PORTAGE AND MAIN: HOW AN ICONIC INTERSECTION SHAPED WINNIPEG'S HISTORY, POLITICS, AND URBAN LIFE

Sabrina Janke and Alex Judge

Winnipeg's Portage and Main has always been far more than an intersection, and this book explores stories from throughout the city's history, including how it was closed to pedestrians 50 years ago, and all the efforts made to open it again this year. The intersection's history reflects ideas of what Winnipeg has been, what it is, and what it could be. (Great Plains Press, \$31.95 pb, 152 pages, with photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77337-145-0)

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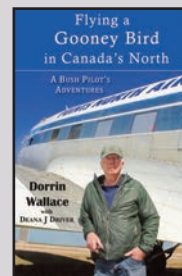
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**FLYING A GOONEY BIRD
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A BUSH PILOT'S ADVENTURES
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WITH DEANA J DRIVER

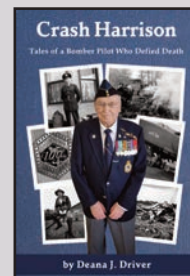
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Marcello Di Cintio

Di Cintio tells the stories of people across Canada who have come from elsewhere to work in fields, care for the sick and elderly, serve coffee, and perform other “invisible” work, showing their perseverance and humanity, but also the precariousness of their situations, and how those situations leave them vulnerable to mistreatment.

(Biblioasis, \$24.95 pb, 342 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77196-659-7, available as ebook)

PUBLIC SERVICE IN TOUGH TIMES: WORKING UNDER AUSTERITY IN MANITOBA

Edited by Jesse Hajer, Ian Hudson, and Jennifer Keith

Using survey data from thousands of public sector workers, carefully compiled statistics on spending and staffing, and a participatory action research methodology, the contributors to this book demonstrate how Pallister’s Progressive Conservative government from 2016 to 2023 cut government expenditures disproportionately – slashing health care and housing funding, freezing wages, and eliminating jobs – to benefit the wealthy and exacerbate poverty and inequality. (University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 324 pages, with b/w illustrations, tables, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-77284-130-5, available as ebook)

SHELTER IN TEXT: ESSAYS ON DWELLING AND REFUGE

Edited by Myra Bloom and Kasia Van Schaik

Through an engaging blend of academic essays and creative non-fiction pieces, contributors such as Billy-Ray Belcourt, ryan fitzpatrick, David Chariandy, and Robert Zacharias examine how writing can create, illuminate, and complicate ideas about dwelling, belonging, or finding safe harbour. (University of Alberta Press, \$44.99 pb, 368 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-829-1, available as ebook)

SOUTH ASIAN FEMINISMS IN DIASPORA: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES FROM CANADA

Edited by Amina Jamal, Jane Ku, and Maryam Khan

Contributors from diverse South Asian communities and disciplines describe their struggles with gendered aspects of

religious and cultural identities, racism and white supremacy, postcolonial and diasporic identities, South Asian queerness, violence against women, and labour and organizing, while critiquing mainstream representations of identity and culture. (University of Alberta Press, \$42.99 pb, 328 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-822-2, available as ebook)

TERRITORIES OF LIFE: EQUIVOCATIONS, ENTANGLEMENTS, AND ENDURANCES

Edited by Mario Blaser, Sylvie Poirier, and Penelope Anthias

“Territories of life” is the phrase used to speak about the shapes that Indigenous and more-than-human worlds or collectives adopt in the present as they endure the heavy shadow of modernization and coloniality. The ten chapters of this book are grounded in long-term ethnographic work from various countries, namely Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Paraguay, and Taiwan. (University of Alberta Press, \$44.99 pb, 384 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-825-3, available as ebook)

THAT’LL NEVER WORK HERE: CHALLENGING THE MYTHS AROUND BIKING IN A WINTER CITY

Patty Wiens

This second book in The City Project series is authored by Winnipeg’s first “Bicycle Mayor.” In it, she challenges the idea that Winnipeg cannot be made a safe place for cyclists year-round. (Great Plains Press, \$19.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-139-9)

TROUBLES ONLINE: ABLEISM AND ACCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Edited by Chelsea Temple Jones, Fady Shanouda, and Lisanne Binhammer

Through narratives, poetry, interviews, and scholarly analysis, the contributors to this book think critically about how disability is addressed in online classrooms, reflecting on disabled, mad, sick, and crip online pedagogy, and highlighting the possibilities of expanding critical standards for accessible teaching and learning. (Athabasca University Press, \$29.99 pb, 254 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-416-3, available as ebook)

UNIVERSAL: RENEWING HUMAN RIGHTS IN A FRACTURED WORLD

Alex Neve

Weaving together law, history, and stories from decades on the front lines of the struggle for human rights, the activist and former secretary general of Amnesty International investigates where we went wrong, how we have progressed, and what we can do to fulfill the promise that human rights are inherent, inalienable, and applicable to all people.

(House of Anansi Press, \$24.99 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4870-1401-8, available as ebook)

UNMASKING ACADEMIA: INSTITUTIONAL INEQUITIES LAID BARE DURING COVID-19

Edited by Irene Shankar and Corinne L. Mason

Highlighting the expertise of historically excluded and currently underrepresented faculty and students, and using methodologies such as auto-ethnography, policy analysis, and Indigenous ways of knowing, this book uses the pandemic as a catalyst for reflection on the intensification and the intersectional impacts of white supremacy, colonialism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and misogyny in higher education, and offers recommendations for making higher education an equitable and a just space. (University of Alberta Press, \$38.99 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-830-7, available as ebook)

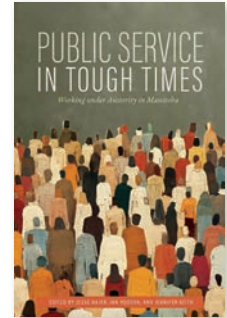
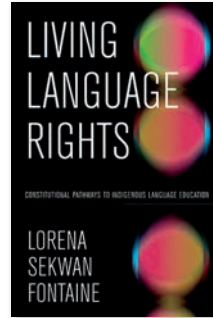
THE UNPREDICTABLE PAST? RESHAPING RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Edited by Volodymyr Kravchenko and Marko Robert Stech

Thirty prominent international scholars reconceptualize and decolonize the cluster of Russian, Slavic, post-Soviet, East European, and Ukrainian interrelated disciplines in Western scholarship in the wake of the 2022 invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

(Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press-UAP Press, \$49.95 pb, 474 pages, ISBN: 978-1-894865-69-2)

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FALL 2025

THE KEYSTONE PROVINCE: POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE IN MANITOBA

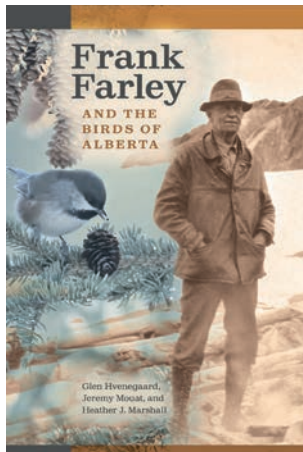
STILL RUFFLING FEATHERS: LET US PUT OUR MINDS TOGETHER

REVISITING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADIAN HISTORY

LIVING LANGUAGE RIGHTS: CONSTITUTIONAL PATHWAYS TO
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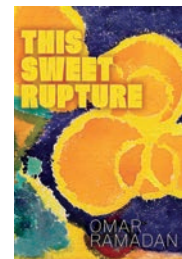
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LAURA K. DAVIS

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12-year-old's time at culture camp comes alive for readers through sensory journey

Middle-years novel hopes to give kids in Saskatchewan's far north chance to see themselves

by Penny M. Thomas

TOUCHING GRASS

Kristy Jackson

Illustrated by Rhael McGregor

HarperCollins Canada

\$21.99 hc, 336 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4434-7223-4

Available as an ebook

Kristy Jackson, a Saskatchewan-based author of Cree, German, and Scottish descent (and a member of the Whitefish Lake First Nation #128, Treaty 6), gifts readers young and old with a beautiful story showing the power of connection on the mind, body, and spirit.

In her latest novel for middle years readers, *Touching Grass*, Jackson introduces 12-year-old Tristen, who, after getting in trouble at school, is sent to a culture camp where he processes many important feelings and experiences, such as grief, bullying, and connecting to identity.

Tristen's mischievous yet self-aware inner dialogue quickly validates the contemporary struggles of both parents and youth. As the story unfolds, readers are taken on a refreshing and sensory journey where the main character connects to all that is nature and the medicine of the land.

Each chapter opens with graphic novel-style illustrations by Winnipeg-based Métis artist Rhael McGregor, giving the reader an intriguing preview of what the chapter holds. Jackson commends McGregor for their incredible artwork and their contribution to bringing her story alive both in *Touching Grass* and in her first book, *Mortified*.

"Their work is stunning, and I'm so lucky to have them on the team," she says.

Jackson has worked for Denesųlę communities in Saskatchewan's far north since 2011, and after attending a culture camp near Black Lake Denesųlę First Nation,

she was motivated to share her experience.

With a great deal of research, and consultation with and support from Ronelda Robillard and Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth of Hatchet Lake Denesųlę First Nation in Treaty 10 Territory, Jackson was able to honour the Dene language and teachings throughout *Touching Grass*.

"These ladies did a lot of work to help me make sure my book was culturally accurate and respectful, and I'm eternally grateful to them for their contributions, support, and enthusiasm for this story," she says of the women who each wrote a foreword to the book.

Jackson recognizes the importance of cultural representation. In her job at Athabasca Basin Development, she's helped to run a book program where each Christmas, they help Santa give every child in seven remote communities a gift and a book by an Indigenous author.

"I didn't see very many books that represented that particular area and language," says Jackson. "It's so important for kids to see themselves in books, and I wanted to give the kids in those communities a book for them. My dream is that

maybe this book will encourage writers from the North to write their own stories to share with the world."

In *Touching Grass*, Jackson not only uses the language of and issues facing today's youth, but also weaves these topics together with ancestral wisdom and traditional teachings. Through the portrayal of Indigenous kinship, love, and humour, Jackson gently delivers an important lesson about seeking balance.

"A lot of parents worry about their kids who play a lot of video games and spend a lot of time on screens. I think technology is a great thing, and video games are a lot of fun, but we all need to go outside and 'touch grass,' too," says Jackson.

"There's room for both in a balanced, modern-day life." 🌿



Kristy Jackson

STOBBER PHOTOGRAPHY

MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

PICTURE BOOKS

BASEBALL BATS FOR CHRISTMAS

Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak, illustrated by Coco Apunnguaq Lyne
This 35th anniversary edition of a holiday classic brings to life the story of Arvaarluk and his friends, who discover Christmas trees for the first time in 1955, with stunning new illustrations.
(Annick Press, \$24.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77321-972-1)

HOWDY, I'M SINGH HARI

Kelly Kaur, illustrated by Ravina Toor
Telling the life story of Punjabi pioneer Harnam Singh Hari (1883–1969), who through his humility, hard work, and big heart went from a penniless immigrant to one of Calgary's wealthiest citizens, this picture book also includes a timeline, archival photos, and historical notes.
(Red Barn Books, \$18.00 pb, 44 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989915-15-8)

I LOVE YOU TOO, I LOVE YOU THREE

Wendy Tugwood, illustrated by Sheila McGraw
This heartwarming bedtime story, told in gently rhyming text, shows a mother and child using a counting game as part of their bedtime routine.
(Firefly Books, \$9.95 board book, 22 pages, ISBN: 978-0-2281-0585-5)

KOKUM, ARE THESE MOOSE TRACKS? CELEBRATING FALL

Tyna Legault Taylor, illustrated by Michelle Dao
The latest in the Joshua Learns from the Land series follows Joshua and his Kokum as they go moose hunting in the fall, learning about various kinds of animal tracks (red fox, wolf, black bear, and cow, calf, and bull moose). The book includes both Swampy Cree and Anishinaabemowin words and a glossary/pronunciation guide, as well as a recipe for moose meat stew and dumplings.
(HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$21.95 hc, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-147-0)

MAYA INSIDE

Alison Hughes, illustrated by Brady Sato
When Maya is teased at school, she retreats into a cardboard box, where she is safe to be herself and to imagine, dream, and create. She takes her box everywhere, and the children at school eventually get so used to it, they forget she is inside. One day, while watching the other children freely running and playing, she bravely steps outside to join them.
(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3916-8, available as ebook)

MY LITTLE SANTA CLAUS

Gabrielle Vincent
Available in English for the first time, this timeless holiday story of a magical encounter tells of young Magali, who meets a tiny Santa Claus, empty-handed and somewhat lost. She gives him a gift, beginning a beautiful exchange of kindness, compassion, and love.
(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-761-2)

REZ KID

Andrea Landry, illustrated by Isabella Fassler
The narrator of this charmingly illustrated story is hurt when the kids on the school bus call her a "rez kid." She tells her mom, her nòhkum, her moshum, and her aunty, and they each give her an idea for sharing something from her reserve community with the other children. But she comes up with her own big and celebratory idea.
(Kids Can Press, \$21.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-5253-1125-3, available as ebook)

SEM'S MAP

Rebecca Thomas, illustrated by Azby Whitecalf
Young Sem is confused when his teacher Mr. Trainer shows the class a map that is the same shape as Turtle Island, but has lines and squares all over, and different names than he knows from his Kiju's stories. So he asks Mr. Trainer if Kiju can come to class to share her stories of the land with all the students. The book includes colonial and decolonial maps of Turtle Island.
(Nimbus Publishing, 32 pages, \$22.95 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77471-419-5; \$14.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77471-496-6; available as ebook)

WHAT THE EYES SEE

Yejide Kilanko, illustrated by Lindsay Shore
This folktale tells the story of how Yanibo the tortoise sees humans trading animal bones. Yanibo summons a gathering of all the animals, who are led into action by Akambulo, the hermit crab.
(Griots Lounge, \$21.99 pb, 40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7383340-2-5)

WHITEY'S JOURNEY

Kelsey Lonie, illustrated by Renée Hansen
This true story tells of a loyal collie named Whitey, who befriended a troop of Canadian soldiers in 1939 and served with them overseas in the Second World War. More than a mascot, Whitey brought joy and comfort to the soldiers.
(Heritage House Publishing, \$24.95 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77203-557-5)

MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

DANICA DELA TORRE, DREAM DETECTIVE

Mikaela Lucido, illustrated by Joanna Cacao
The second in this paranormal mystery series sees Danica dela Torre and her best friends (and fellow detectives) Jack and Kennedy on the case of her stolen reliquary, an amulet that keeps her safe from evil spirits. To find it, she enters a parallel realm and encounters Detective Gray, the author of an influential investigator's guide, and from there the case expands to include another mystery, one that throws fear into her family and requires a deep understanding of Filipino lore.
(Annick Press, \$25.99 hc, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77321-977-6)

THE DISCOVERY OF FINNEGAN WILDE

Caroline Pignat
Part adventure, part mystery, this engaging novel of self-discovery follows both 15-year-old Finn, who lives on the streets of Dublin when she isn't trapped in the Woodhall Workhouse, and young archaeological scholar Eddie Moore. When Finn steals a journal from Eddie's father, the two (after much resistance) join forces in a search through historical record and local lands to find Finn's connection to the almost indecipherable manuscript written by a monk in the ninth century – the key to

Finn's family history and to the legendary Cauldron of Plenty.
(ThistleDown Press, \$16.95 pb, 330 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-287-4)

HOW TO SAVE A LIBRARY

Colleen Nelson

With humour and heart, this novel shows how community can come together to make a difference. Now settled in The Gates, Casey is finally starting to feel at home after moving from city to city all his life. When the local library needs extensive and expensive repairs, Casey joins the Kids Community Action Network competition to help raise money.

(Pajama Press, \$22.95 hc, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77278-352-0)

MAGGIE LOU MEETS HER MATCH

by Arnolda Dufour Bowes,
illustrated by Karlene Harvey

In this second book about the irrepressible Métis girl, Maggie Lou meets her match in the form of a new cousin Rosie, who is a rival in all kinds of ways until they become friends; a horse of her own named Hot Cocoa and the challenge of learning to ride; and finally, training for the famous Otipim'sowak Race, a Métis voyageur relay. Maggie Lou meets all these challenges with enthusiasm and the help of her parents, kokhom and moshôm, and aunty and uncle.

(Groundwood Books-House of Anansi, \$14.99 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-77306-774-2)

A SUMMER OF DRAGONFLIES

Natasha Deen

Twelve-year-old Guppie is extremely shy, but when her family takes a cross-USA road trip over the summer, she decides to reinvent herself into a brave hero like she reads about in her books, learning along the way what true courage is.

(DCB-Cormorant Books, \$14.95 pb, 244 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77086-800-7)

MIDDLE YEARS NON-FICTION

ADVENTURES IN MATH: HOW TO LEVEL UP YOUR MATH GAME

Carleigh Wu, illustrated by Sean Simpson

This book helps to bust myths about how difficult math is and gives young

mathematicians the confidence to persist and learn, with stories of real people who used math to accomplish amazing things; practical tips to help understand math concepts and solve problems; and "Show Your Work" challenges at the end of each chapter.

(Kids Can Press, \$21.99 hc, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-5253-1132-1, available as ebook)

NEVER SILENT: A HIROSHIMA SURVIVOR'S STORY

Setsuko Thurlow and Kathy Lowinger,
illustrated by Michelle Theodore

Published on the 80th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, this book includes Setsuko's personal story of her life before the bomb, how she survived that horrific event, and how she has worked as an activist to ban nuclear arms ever since. Also included is informational text to give historical context for the places and events.

(Annick Press, \$24.99 hc, 64 pages, with maps, photos, timelines, sidebars, further reading, ISBN: 978-1-77321-985-1)

NOT JUST DIRT! HOW SOIL SUPPORTS OUR PLANET

Sheryl Normandeau

Part of the Orca Footprints series about social and environmental issues, and illustrated with colour photos throughout, together with facts in captions and sidebars, this book defines soil, describes its many uses, discusses the threats it faces, and explains what can be done to protect it.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95 hc, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-3975-5, available as ebook)

YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS WORLD: CELEBRATED INDIGENOUS VOICES SPEAK TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Edited by Stephanie Sinclair and
Sara Sinclair, foreword by Mazina
Giizhik-iban (Murray Sinclair)

Forty Indigenous writers, artists, activists, athletes, scholars, and thinkers from across Turtle Island are included in this collection of letters and art that celebrate the potential of young people, who they are and what they dream of being. Structured as a medicine bundle, the anthology organizes the letters and accompanying works of art into sections

representing traditional medicine – water, tobacco, cedar, sweetgrass, or sage.
(Tundra Books-PRH, \$28.99 hc, 120 pages, full-colour art throughout, ISBN: 978-77488-256-6, available as ebook)

YA FICTION

BLOOD LETTERS

Ariel Gordon and GMB Chomichuk

This innovative, illustrated, epistolary novel made up of military records, letters, poems, drawings, and maps, is set in a futuristic war with flesh-eating fog and robotic monstrosities. Siblings Kris, Albany, and Millie write letters to each other about their roles in the war – Kris (a poet) is in special ops, Albany (an artist) is a soldier at the front, and Millie (a mathematical genius) is a code worker behind the lines, where she tries to protect the others from the worst of the war.

(Yellow Dog-Great Plains Press, \$19.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-143-6)

7 GENERATIONS: A PLAINS CREE SAGA

David A. Robertson, illustrated

by Scott B. Henderson

This 15th anniversary omnibus edition of the four titles in the epic series of graphic novels includes gorgeous new colours and lettering and an afterword by Cherie Dimaline. In the series, Edwin, a modern teenage boy, learns the history of his family through years of war, a smallpox epidemic, and residential schools all the way to Edwin's present conflicts.

(HighWater Press-Portage & Main, \$36.99 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77492-061-9, available as ebook)

WAVELENGTH

Cale Plett

Seventeen-year-old pop sensation Sasha runs from fame to finish high school in a small midwestern city and come out as nonbinary away from the limelight. But they become caught up with Wavelength, a local band, and Lillian, their lead singer. Will Sasha be able to find family and love in this new life, or will their past manager and fame find them and ruin everything?
(Groundwood Books-House of Anansi, \$18.99 pb, 408 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77946-029-5)

Sept bouquets encadrent sept récits des conséquences des relations dysfonctionnelles

Explorer la psychologie des personnes malveillantes : « un mystère que je souhaite résoudre », indique Louise Dandeneau

par Liz Katynski

BOUQUETS MEURTRIS

Louise Dandeneau

Éditions du Blé

21,95 \$ papier, 120 pages

ISBN : 978-2-925452-17-1

Disponible en livre numérique

Les fleurs, comme les relations humaines, sont vulnérables. Et dans chacune des nouvelles de ce recueil, on retrouve un bouquet.

Louise Dandeneau, auteure de *Bouquets Meurtris*, explique le titre de son livre: « Un bouquet meurtri est un bouquet blessé. Le bouquet dans chacune des nouvelles symbolise les blessures que les personnages en brouille s'infligent les uns aux autres. »

Voici sept histoires de relations humaines dysfonctionnelles. « Dans tous les cas, les fleurs se font malmenées d'une manière ou d'une autre », dit Dandeneau.

« Un bouquet souffre dans la chaleur, un autre est piétiné par le protagoniste, encore un autre se fait broyer. L'état des fleurs représente l'état de la relation dont il est question. »

Un bouquet dure, car ses fleurs sont en plastique.

Dandeneau, résidente de Winnipeg, a quitté son travail en traduction en 2017, après la parution en 2016 de son premier livre, pour se consacrer à l'écriture.

« J'ai commencé à écrire de la poésie et c'était pour exprimer mes douleurs et mes questionnements », dit-elle.

Flowers framing each of these 7 stories show effect of dysfunctional relationships

Exploring psyche of malicious people 'is a mystery for me to solve,' Dandeneau says

by Liz Katynski

BOUQUETS MEURTRIS

Louise Dandeneau

Éditions du Blé

\$21.95 pb, 120 pages

ISBN: 978-2-925452-17-1

Available as an ebook

Much like personal relationships, flowers are vulnerable. And in each story in this new collection, there's a bouquet.

Louise Dandeneau, Winnipeg author of *Bouquets Meurtris*, explains the book's title. "A bruised bouquet is an injured bouquet. The bouquet in each of the stories symbolizes the hurt that the characters inflict on one another as they fight."

Here are seven stories about dysfunctional human relationships. "In every case, the flowers are mistreated in one way or another," says Dandeneau.

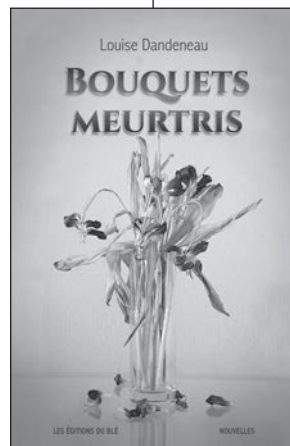
"One bouquet suffers in the heat, another is stomped on by the protagonist, and yet another is crushed. The state of the flowers represents the state of the relationship in question."

One bouquet endures, because its flowers are made of plastic.

Dandeneau left her work as a translator in 2017, after her first book was published in 2016, to dedicate herself to her writing.

"I started to write poetry to express my pain and ask questions," she says.

"I was looking to understand the roots of my pain. I turned to prose because there I found more possibilities to



CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

« Je cherchais à comprendre la racine de mes maux. Je me suis tournée vers la prose parce que j'y trouvais plus de possibilités pour divertir et rejoindre un plus grand public. C'était aussi une façon de diluer mes expériences difficiles dans des histoires inventées. Aujourd'hui, j'écris de la prose, de la poésie et le haïku. J'ai des livres publiés dans ces trois genres. »

Elle adore inventer des histoires, et le fait depuis toute petite.

« J'adore explorer la psyché des personnes dysfonctionnelles, surtout celles qui sont malveillantes, car c'est un mystère pour moi à éclairer : pourquoi certaines personnes choisissent d'être malveillantes,

« J'adore explorer la psyché des personnes dysfonctionnelles, surtout celles qui sont malveillantes, car c'est un mystère pour moi à éclairer : pourquoi certaines personnes choisissent d'être malveillantes, ou encore, ce qui fait qu'une personne devient malveillante sans qu'elle en soit consciente. »

LOUISE DANDENEAU

personnages sont profondément blessés et ont beaucoup de difficulté à le communiquer », dit-elle.

« J'espère que les lectrices et lecteurs tireront du recueil l'importance de communiquer ouvertement. Cela fait peur et rend vulnérable d'exprimer ses peines, mais c'est cette ouverture et cette honnêteté qui peuvent améliorer une relation ou y mettre fin si c'est ce qui doit arriver. »



Louise Dandeneau

ou encore, ce qui fait qu'une personne devient malveillante sans qu'elle en soit consciente; cela me fascine », dit-elle.

Tous ses personnages partent d'un détail qu'elle voit, ou qu'elle ressent chez des personnes qu'elle connaît ou dont elle a fait la connaissance, même brève. « Ils sont un amalgame de plusieurs personnes, avec, bien sûr, des traits physiques ou psychologiques de mon invention. »

Dandeneau dit qu'elle veut rejoindre les personnes qui ont vécu des expériences semblables à celles de ses personnages afin que les lectrices et lecteurs puissent s'identifier à eux et se reconnaître en eux.

« Dans chacun de mes recueils, tous mes

entertain and connect with a larger readership. It's also a way to dilute my difficult experiences in imagined stories. Today, I write prose, poetry, and haiku. I have published books in each of these three genres.”

She loves to invent stories and has been doing so since she was young.

“I love exploring the psyche of dysfunctional people, especially those who are malicious, because it is a mystery for me to solve, why some chose to be malicious, or again why some become malicious whether they realize it or not,” she says. “This fascinates me.”

All of her characters come to her from details of what she has seen or felt about people she knows or has met, even briefly. “They are a composite of several people, with physical and psychological traits of my own invention of course.”

In writing about dysfunctional relationships, Dandeneau hopes to connect with her readers, hopes that they might identify with these familiar characters and situations.

“In all of my stories, my characters are deeply hurting, and they have much difficulty in communicating it,” she says.

“I hope my readers will realize the importance of open communication. It can scare us and make us feel vulnerable to express our pain, but it's this openness and honesty that can improve a relationship or end it, if that is what must happen.”

“I love exploring the psyche of dysfunctional people, especially those who are malicious, because it is a mystery for me to solve, why some chose to be malicious, or again why some become malicious whether they realize it or not.” LOUISE DANDENEAU

L'impact des petits gestes se dégage clairement de ce récit de liens entre voisins

Une amitié de la vie réelle de Michaud a inspiré ce premier album à thèmes environnementaux

par Katryne Parvais-Dion

TES MÉGOTS, HUGO!

Jean-Marie Michaud

Illustrations de Masoud Gharehbaghi

La nouvelle plume

14,95 \$ papier, 44 pages

ISBN : 978-2-925329-19-0

Disponible en livre numérique

Dans son premier livre, intitulé *Tes mégots, Hugo!*, l'auteur saskatchewanais Jean-Marie Michaud aborde le thème de l'amitié véritable, tout en mettant l'accent sur l'empreinte écologique laissée par les humains.

Le parcours de Michaud vers la Saskatchewan était inattendu. Il a quitté Vancouver il y a près de 40 ans lorsqu'une troupe de théâtre ambulante de Saskatoon l'a invité à créer des marionnettes géantes avec eux.

« L'accueil chaleureux de mes collègues et les attraits nombreux des prairies et de la vallée Meewasin m'ont séduit », dit-il.

Bien que nouveau dans l'édition des livres, Michaud apporte à ses écrits plusieurs décennies d'expérience en tant qu'auteur. Après avoir longtemps travaillé dans l'industrie du cinéma et du théâtre, il s'est joint au Cercle des écrivaines et écrivains pour parfaire son talent d'écriture dramatique. Il participe aussi régulièrement à des retraites en écriture, ainsi qu'à des publications en ligne, dont la chronique « Horizons » du journal *L'Eau vive*.

« Ce long parcours m'amène finalement à publier mon premier livre », dit Michaud.

Lessons about impacts of small actions shine through story of neighbourly connection

Michaud's real-life friendship inspired debut picture book about environmental issue

by Katryne Parvais-Dion

TES MÉGOTS, HUGO!

Jean-Marie Michaud

Illustrated by Masoud Gharehbaghi

La nouvelle plume

\$14.95 pb, 44 pages

ISBN: 978-2-925329-19-0

Available as an ebook

In his literary debut, *Tes mégots, Hugo!*, Saskatoon-based author Jean-Marie Michaud tells a heartfelt story about a real-life friendship, together with an important message about human impacts on the environment.

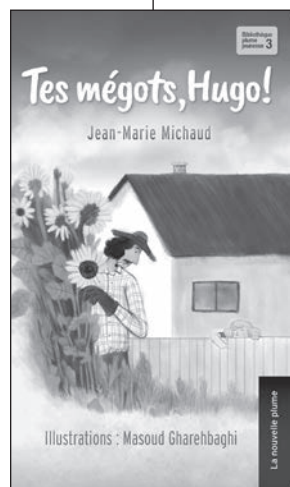
Michaud's path to Saskatchewan was an unexpected one. He left Vancouver almost 40 years ago when a travelling theatre troupe from Saskatoon invited him to create giant puppets with them.

"The warm welcome from my colleagues and the many attractions of the Prairies and the Meewasin Valley won me over," he says.

While new to book publishing, Michaud brings decades' worth of writing experience to the page. After working in film and theatre for many years, he joined the Cercle des écrivaines et écrivains to hone his dramatic writing skills, while also attending writing retreats and publishing online, including in the literary column "Horizons" of the newspaper *L'Eau vive*.

"This long journey has finally led me to publish my first book," Michaud says.

The picture book's characters, Hugo and Anna, are drawn from Michaud's life. Anna is based on his former



CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Les personnages du livre illustré, Hugo et Anna, sont inspirés de sa propre vie. Anna était sa voisine, à qui il dédie affectueusement l'histoire.

« J'ai vu grandir ma petite voisine depuis l'enfance », se souvient-il. « Son intelligence et son enthousiasme à venir jardiner dans mon jardin et à m'enseigner ses leçons m'ont toujours émerveillé. »

Le livre aborde la pollution causée par les mégots de cigarettes – un problème environnemental qui est apparu naturellement grâce à l'amitié de Michaud avec sa jeune voisine.

« Grâce à ma petite voisine, j'ai réalisé qu'un geste simple, répété à chaque instant des milliers de fois chaque jour, a des conséquences écologiques non négligeables. »

Les mots de Michaud prennent vie grâce à la collaboration de Masoud Gharehbaghi, dont les illustrations expressives captent la douce puissance de l'histoire. Après avoir découvert sa passion en tant qu'étudiant en 2016, Gharehbaghi travaille professionnellement sur des livres illustrés depuis 2019.

« Je cherche à capter l'essence de l'histoire en images, de manière concise et succincte », explique-t-il.

« Chaque génération hérite du monde qui leur est légué avec la responsabilité de le préserver pour la prochaine. »

JEAN-MARIE MICHAUD

jardin évoquent un sentiment de réflexion, rappelant aux lecteurs, jeunes et moins jeunes, de prendre conscience de l'impact de leurs petits gestes – sur la vie d'aujourd'hui et de demain.

« Chaque génération hérite du monde qui leur est légué avec la responsabilité de le préserver pour la prochaine », explique Michaud.

« Le message d'Anna est un message universel sur la santé de tout ce qui vit dans nos rivières et océans. » 🌿



Jean-Marie Michaud



Masoud Gharehbaghi

neighbour, to whom he fondly dedicates the story.

“I watched my little neighbour grow up from childhood,” he reminisces. “Her intelligence and enthusiasm for coming to garden in my yard and teaching me her lessons always amazed me.”

The book addresses cigarette butt pollution – an environmental issue that emerged naturally from Michaud's friendship with his young neighbour.

“Thanks to her, I realized that a simple gesture, repeated thousands of times every day, has significant ecological consequences.”

Michaud's words come to life through the collaboration with Masoud Gharehbaghi, whose expressive illustrations capture the gentle power of the story. Having discovered his passion as a student in 2016, Gharehbaghi has worked professionally on picture books since 2019.

“I aim to capture the essence of the story in pictures, briefly and concisely,” he says.

“Moreover, as an illustrator, I often try to express what the story leaves unsaid or what cannot be easily conveyed through the text alone.”

Together, Michaud and Gharehbaghi have created a beautiful book for early readers about caring for the natural world. The book's calming garden scenes evoke a sense of reflection, reminding readers, young and old, to consider the impact of small actions – to life today and in the future.

“Each generation inherits the world that has been left to them with the responsibility of preserving it for the next,” says Michaud.

“Anna's message is a universal one about the health of all living things in our rivers and oceans.” 🌿

“Each generation inherits the world that has been left to them with the responsibility of preserving it for the next.” JEAN-MARIE MICHAUD

VIENNENT DE PARAITRE EN FRANÇAIS

LES HISTOIRES DE MONONCLE NAPOLEON

Euclid Gareau

Pionnier de l'Ouest canadien, ce légendaire Mononcle Napoléon vit des aventures palpitantes, à la fois réalistes et farfelues, marquées de chance, de malchance et d'ingéniosité. Quatre contes fabuleux incorporent un côté ludique, suscitent l'imagination et l'émotion des lecteurs et des auditeurs tout en jetant un regard sur l'histoire de l'Ouest canadien du XIX^e siècle et le langage de nos ancêtres. The legendary Uncle Napoleon, a pioneer of Western Canada, experiences thrilling adventures, both realistic and far-fetched, marked by luck, misfortune, and ingenuity. Four fabulous tales incorporate a playful side, spark the imagination and emotions of readers and listeners while offering a glimpse into the history of 19th-century Western Canada and the language of our ancestors.

(La nouvelle plume, contes, 18,95 \$ papier, 92 pages, ISBN : 978-2-925329-30-5, disponible en livre numérique)

L'HOMME BLANC UN PEU FOU

Yves Lafond

L'histoire de cet homme sans âge rencontré sur le train serait un cercle, maintes fois répété, comme les anneaux de croissance d'un conifère mature, ou l'œil rond et luisant du saumon qui remonte la rivière pour donner la vie et mourir. Il a raconté ses vies et ses morts, ses réussites et ses erreurs, les noms et les visages qu'il a portés parmi les gens, de ville en village, de route en rivière. Il a décrit l'amitié des bêtes sauvages. Il a appris comment changer de vie en restant le même, et comment fuir au bout du monde en restant toujours sur place. The story of this ageless man met on the train is like a circle, repeated over and over, like the growth rings of a mature conifer, or the round, shiny eye of a salmon swimming upstream to give life and die. He tells about his lives and deaths, his successes and mistakes, the names and faces he wore among people, from town to village, from road to river. He described the friendship of wild animals. He taught how to change one's life while remaining the same, and

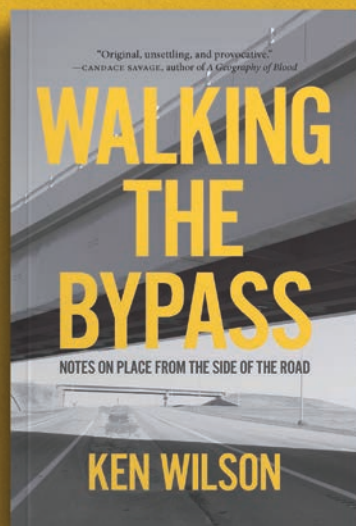
how to flee to the ends of the earth while always staying in the same place. (La nouvelle plume, récit, 26,00 \$ papier, 288 pages, ISBN : 978-2-925329-34-3, disponible en livre numérique)

LES VIEUX PÊTEUX AVEC BON DÉBARRAS

Madeleine Blais-Dahlem

Deux pièces au sujet du grand âge. *Les vieux pétueux* présente trois vieillards sirotant leur café quotidien, tout en grattant leurs billets de loterie et s'interrogeant sur la nature du hasard. *Bon débarras* met en scène un couple aîné qui a pris la décision de quitter leur village pour rentrer en ville où ils seront plus près de leur petits-enfants et des soins médicaux. These two stage plays about growing old include *Les vieux pétueux*, which features three old men sipping their daily coffee while scratching their lottery tickets and wondering about the nature of luck; and *Bon débarras*, in which an older couple decides to move back to the city where they will be closer to their grandchildren and medical care.

(La nouvelle plume, théâtre, 24,00 \$ papier, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-2-925329-28-2, disponible en livre numérique)



"Original, unsettling, and provocative." —Candace Savage

VITAL VOICES OF THE PRAIRIES



"There are poems in this book that see to the very centre of things, through violence, through failure, through emptiness, to the staggering beauty and freedom at their core." —Jan Zwicky



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LIZ KATYNSKI est l'auteure de *Dickies from Gunton: Canadian Brothers in Two World Wars*. Voir LizKatynski.ca.

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On the Cover: Cover art for *The Many Names of Robert Cree* created by Jess Albert. Graphically designed collage, 2025.

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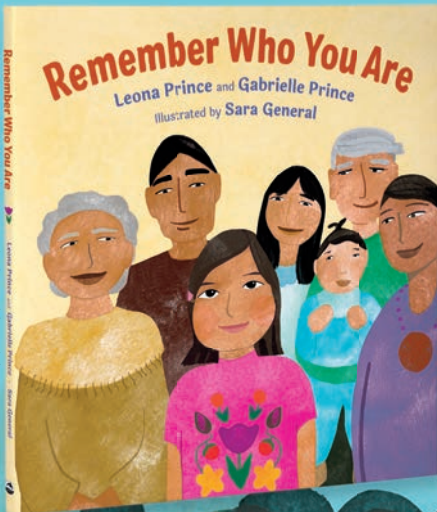


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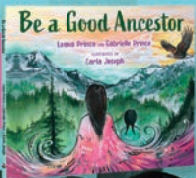


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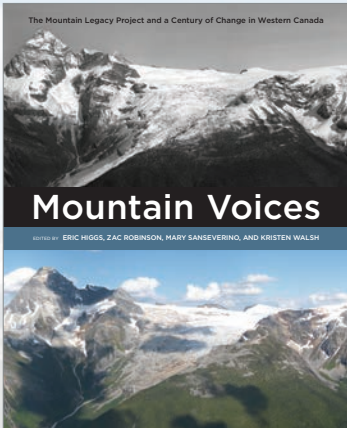


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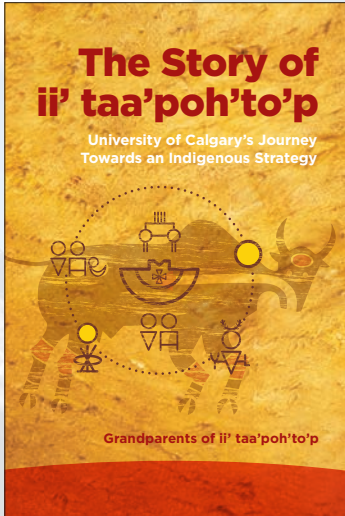


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Mountain Voices

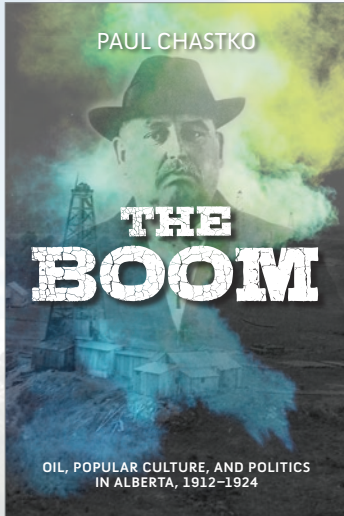
EDITED BY: ERIC HOGG, ZAC ROBINSON, MARY SANSEVERINO, AND KRISTEN WALSH



The Story of ii' taa'poh'to'p

University of Calgary's Journey Towards an Indigenous Strategy

Grandparents of ii' taa'poh'to'p



PAUL CHASTKO

THE BOOM

OIL, POPULAR CULTURE, AND POLITICS IN ALBERTA, 1912-1924

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—JOHN GEIGER, author of *The Third Man Factor* and CEO, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society / Canadian Geographic

A dynamic framework for the development of an Indigenous strategy that shares the engaging story of ii'taa'poh'to'p at the University of Calgary. The Grandparents of ii' taa'poh'to'p welcome readers to learn from their experience and to walk a path of transformation and renewal for truth and reconciliation.

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—DARREN DOCHUK, author of *Anointed With Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America*





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Fall 2025



That'll Never Work Here

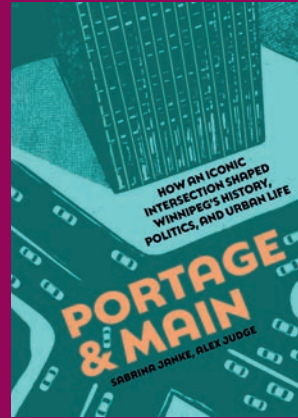
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Patty Wiens

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Portage & Main

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**Sabrina Janke &
Alex Judge**

ISBN 978-1-77337-145-0
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Janke and Judge explore the stories of Portage and Main throughout Winnipeg's history and the complicated relationship between the city's oldest intersection and the culture of the urban environment that grew around it.



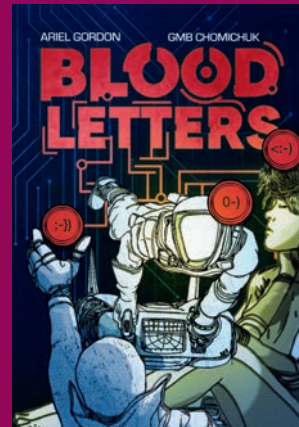
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Gail Sidonie Šobat

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