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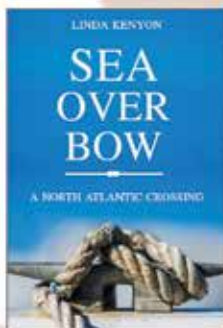
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FICTION

- 4 Triumph and turmoil in a small-town family tale: Kimmel explores how people make the best of difficult situations
- 5 Death and rebirth on the shores of Lake Winnipeg: Icelandic-inspired murder mystery draws from cultural dynamics in Gimli
- 6 Building a novel through “unguarded conversation”: Professional listeners challenge notions of public space and privacy
- 7 Taking care of mothers’ stories: Short-story collection offers 13 flavours of motherhood’s joys, anxieties, and more
- 8 Writing representation into Arthurian legends: Classic tales reflect contemporary and ancient cultures
- 9 A complex pairing delves into genetics and identity: Themes of family dynamics, fluidity, and loss follow these twins’ story

POETRY

- 14 Giving voice to Russia’s last tsarina: Experiences in motherhood connect across continents and centuries
- 15 Architecture, erasure, and the allure of New York City: Poetic examination of the High Line park builds on author’s doctoral dissertation

DRAMA

- 18 Motivation for playwrights, comedy for readers: Collection of PTE shorts highlights some of the city’s most talented playwrights

FEATURE: RESISTANCE & RECLAMATION

- 19 Visions of accountability, healing through poetry: Editor offers “shelter of a book” for those struggling with sexual assault trauma
- 20 No easy choice in the face of unforgiveable crimes: Novel explores remarkable faith and courage in a culture of denial and secrecy
- 21 Rooster Town emerges from the shadows: Métis community’s history has been overlooked in settler research
- 22 A river’s muse and a revelatory meeting: Vermette centres the Red River and Métis history in two new works

NON-FICTION

- 26 Suffragette’s memoir expands with modern analysis: Inherited narrative is complemented by academic additions and colonial context
- 27 Community in the midst of poverty on Alberta Avenue: Essays on revitalization, safety, and sticking it out in a gritty neighbourhood
- 28 Speaking up for elders who parent their grandchildren: Second round of raising kids has many challenges and benefits
- 29 Sailing off to find herself: Author starts life over with an adventure at sea
- 30 Revisiting the high times of cycling history: Meet the female pioneers of early Victorian high-wheel racing

24

PUBLISHING FEATURE

A highlight reel over 40 years long: Thistledown Press keeps pace with the evolving shape of Prairie literature

YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN

- 40 Little old dachshund is an unlikely, reluctant hero: Dog’s-eye narration tackles tough subjects with sensitivity and humour
- 41 Know your rights, and then ask questions: Guidebook aims to empower young people to advocate for themselves
- 42 Brave, bold steps for both character and illustrator: T-Rex superhero was inspired by five-year-old daughter’s own drawing
- 43 Meeting challenges to unity with respect: Teen protagonist navigates community tension in accessible language

EN FRANÇAIS

- 48 Kids don’t have it in them to turn away: A story that needs to be told / Ce n’est pas en eux de tourner le dos: Une histoire qu’il faut raconter
- 50 Modern myth gets tongue-in-cheek treatment: French take on Ovid’s tale explores humanity and transformation / Mythe moderne avec un clin d’œil : Actualisation d’un mythe d’Ovide en français : une exploration de l’humanité et de la transformation

- 53 Bookends / About our contributors

Triumph and turmoil in a small-town family tale

Kimmel explores how people make the best of difficult situations

by Bev Sandell Greenberg

NO GOOD ASKING

Fran Kimmel

ECW Press (ecwpress.com)

\$19.00 pb, 288 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77041-438-9

Even as a child, I was attracted to books with characters in turmoil,” author Fran Kimmel says. Now her own fiction involves protagonists with tumultuous lives.

Winner of the 2013 Alberta Readers’ Choice Award, Kimmel’s debut novel *The Shore Girl* tells of a dysfunctional single mother who keeps moving her young child from place to place. Prior to the publication of her novels, Kimmel was twice nominated for the Journey Prize.

No Good Asking, her sophomore novel, is a compassionate tale about a family in crisis. At the outset, Eric and Ellie Nyland have moved their family to Eric’s hometown, hoping to make a new start, but things aren’t going well.

Not only does Ellie have serious mental health issues, but their teenage son is in rebellion and their young son is autistic. In addition, Eric’s elderly father has dementia and the Nylands’ marriage is in trouble.

One frigid winter night, Eric encounters a young girl named Hannah walking along on a dark road near their house. Shortly afterwards, he rescues her from an abusive home and invites her to stay with his family for a few days until her placement in foster care. Conflicts, but also some surprising alliances, abound as the family members react to Hannah’s unexpected arrival.

The inspiration for this novel came to Kimmel from an image of a young girl with bruises on her face, sitting on the floor, making shadow puppets with her fingers.

“I needed to know what had happened to her and what would happen next,” Kimmel says. “I needed this girl to be surrounded by good people who were trying to do the right thing despite their imperfections and vulnerabilities.”

Kimmel’s life experiences also informed the novel. “The Nyland family and Hannah are imagined, but I’ve stolen pieces from my life to tell their stories,” she says.

“Having worked with a lot of troubled kids and families, I have

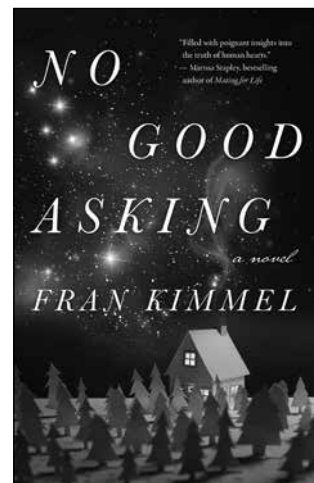
also been inspired by their ability to triumph despite difficult, sometimes horrible, situations.”



MONIQUE DE ST. CROIX

“It’s the small acts of kindness that can create new beginnings.”

KIMMEL



The title refers to a phrase Ellie uses when resigned to Eric’s withdrawal from her. Regarding the Nylands’ marriage, Kimmel observes, “We learn as much about these characters from what is left unsaid as from what they choose to share with each other.”

The novel takes place in the Christmas season. Though the holiday provides the backdrop for this novel, Kimmel, who currently resides in Lacombe, Alberta, sees it as a small-town family drama.

“It is the longings and secrets and profound wounds playing out in these characters’ lives that are at the heart of this story,” she says.

But the holiday season heightens the high emotional stakes – readers can expect their hearts to both break and warm. As Kimmel says, *No Good Asking* shows how “it’s the small acts of kindness that can create new beginnings.”

And it’s the small but consistent writing practice that can create fine literature. Kimmel offers the following advice to emerging fiction writers: “Write. Read. Repeat. It’s like sunshine and rain for a garden. Day by day, word by word, your stories will grow.” 🌱

DEATH AND REBIRTH ON THE SHORES OF LAKE WINNIPEG

Icelandic-inspired murder mystery draws from cultural dynamics in Gimli

by David Jón Fuller

IN VALHALLA'S SHADOWS

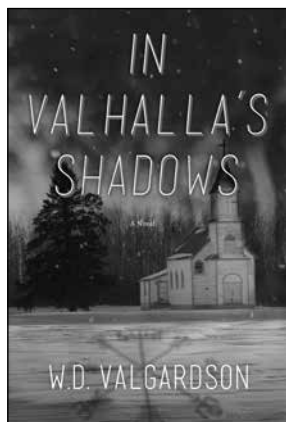
W. D. Valgardson

Douglas & McIntyre (douglas-mcintyre.com)

\$32.95 hc, 480 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77162-196-0

An ex-cop with a troubled past. A close-knit lakeside community with close-guarded secrets. The suspicious death of a young woman. These are all the makings of a good noir story, but in W. D. Valgardson's hands, they combine to become a mythic blend of Icelandic history in Canada and a story of death and rebirth.



In creating the fictional town of Valhalla, Valgardson draws from his own history; he grew up in Gimli. "I've returned there every summer since 1957 except one," he says. Valgardson now calls Victoria, B.C., home, where he taught creative writing at the University of Victoria for 30 years.

Valgardson is the award-winning author of novels such as *Gentle Sinners* and *The Girl with the Botticelli Face*.

His most recent book was *What the Bear Said: Skald Tales from New Iceland*.

In Valhalla's Shadows tells the story of retired Mountie Tom Parsons, a recent arrival to Valhalla, who discovers the body of a young Indigenous woman on the beach.

The RCMP make a cursory investigation, but Tom, already viewed with suspicion by the locals thanks to his status as an outsider and his fortuitous purchase of a property some had their eye on, makes his own inquiries to piece together what happened.

Tom was the starting point for what grew into a nearly 500-page novel, full of gripping characters both quirky (a nervous Englishman who carves wooden birdhouses) and mythic (three elderly sisters with prophetic powers named after the three Norns of Norse mythology).

"Tom Parsons appeared one day and demanded to be heard," Valgardson says. "As I listened to him, other characters entered the narrative."

The locals – trappers, fishers, local entrepreneurs, both non-Indigenous and Indigenous – depend on seasonal or under-the-table work to survive over winter. The rich yacht-owners live alongside them in the summer, but in a different world.

Tom knows all too well that an Indigenous girl's death isn't going to get the same investigation as a high roller's would.

"As a kid and teenager, I travelled to places like Riverton, Arborg, Hnausa, Arnes, Fraserwood, Winnipeg Beach," Valgardson says.

"All these places are distinct, but structures of rank, prestige, power, weakness, are much the same. In Gimli and the area, of course, there was always the gap between the locals and the summer people, the campers. There still is. I learned early to admire people for simply getting up every morning in the face of bad weather, unemployment, poor fishing, disappointment. I also learned about people's ambitions and limitations."

Tom works in Valhalla as a handyman, but in a larger sense he's trying to build a life for himself. He suffers damage both physical and psychological as a result of a vehicle accident in the line of duty that put an end to his police career, not to mention his marriage.

Like a Viking warrior killed in battle, he finds a new life in Valhalla. But it's no peaceful afterlife. Not with a mystery to solve.

"Time and again, I've observed people who, in a sense, die and are reborn," Valgardson says. "The old myths, whether Christian or pagan, are often about this dying and being reborn."

"The rebirth is never easy." 🌿



JANIS ÓLÖF MAGNÚSSON

Building a novel through “unguarded conversation”

Professional listeners challenge notions of public space and privacy

by Ian Goodwillie

THE EAVESDROPPERS

Rosie Chard

NeWest Press (newestpress.com)

\$20.95 pb, 272 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988732-44-2



Eavesdropping. Polite society frowns upon it. Parents raise their kids to not listen in on other people’s conversations. What if a researcher challenged these accepted norms and used the power of eavesdropping in a project to collect these bits of other people’s lives to generate new data on public opinion?

Bill Harcourt, a social attitudes researcher in Rosie Chard’s new novel *The Eavesdroppers*, does just that.

Chard’s desire to study anthropology was a result of her interest in societies and how they work. The subject matter covered in her newest novel is born of the same place.

The premise of the story is based on two historical projects, according to Chard: the concrete sound mirrors built at Denge on the south coast of England in the 1920s and the Mass Observation social research project, which began in Britain in 1937 and used a variety of observational methods to record everyday life.

Chard, a former Winnipegger now based in Brighton, England, says the inspiration of the Mass Observation project is particularly key as its archives revealed “snippets of unguarded conversation, something beguiling about the era and culture in which the words were uttered.” It inspires her character, Bill Harcourt,

to pursue his own project.

Chard describes Bill, in part, as an “almost mythical reasonable man against whom things can be measured.”

And his aforementioned project originates from several sources: “a new awareness of the power of hearing after eye surgery, a feeling of insignificance and petty resentment on returning to the office after his operation, and inspiration gleaned from the Mass Observation research project itself.”

When Bill puts his team of eavesdroppers together and sets them on their path, Chard says he “ignites flickers of extraordinariness, not only in the people he gathers together, but in himself.”

That extraordinariness turns into obsession as team members,

each given their own story, become increasingly intertwined in, and endangered by, the power of the experiment and the lives on which they are spying.

Privacy, both the power and illusion of it, is at the core of *The Eavesdroppers*. As Chard says, “The question of privacy has been brought into a different perspective by the emergence of social media.”

But it’s always been a topic of conversation, even in the early part of the 20th century when the Mass

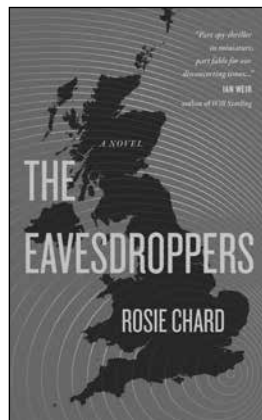
Observation project was happening.

Chard used some of the same methods as the project when doing research for the novel – snippets of conversations she picked up over a period of three years made their way into the writing.

Privacy is as much about keeping secrets as it is anything else. Chard is particularly interested, not so much in the way

that we give away our secrets, but more in “what it is about the secret that we reveal.”

People openly express those secrets in public on the assumption that no one else is listening. The author hopes her readers, through experiencing the profound effects that listening has in this novel, “might think about the significance of the listening sense in a fresh way after reading it.” 🐾



Taking care of mothers' stories

Short-story collection offers 13 flavours of motherhood's joys, anxieties, and more

by Laura Kupcis

MOTHERISH

Laura Rock Gaughan

Turnstone Press (turnstonepress.com)

\$19.00 pb, 198 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-641-6

The responsibility of caring for another person is fraught with internal conflict: Am I making the right choices? Am I good enough? What if I fail?

Laura Rock Gaughan's first book, *Motherish*, examines these struggles – and more – through wide-ranging characters who find themselves, whether by choice or by default, in the role of nurturer and protector.

In her collection of short stories, Gaughan, who lives in Lakefield, Ontario, gives life to different characters whose primary concern is now one of mothering.

"The title, *Motherish*, is a nod to the fact that mothering is a preoccupation of the characters in these stories," Gaughan says, "but it also throws a little shade, sending up the sacrosanct notions we have about motherhood, making the case for a more expansive view."

And the viewpoints are many, ranging from first-person child narrators to elderly protagonists whose stories are told in the third person.

One story, "Transit," is told in the less common second person, where pregnant "you" suffers an excruciating commute home.

The 13 stories in the collection vary in style as well. "Some of them are contemporary; others are set in the past. Many are realistic in style, while fantastic elements appear in a few," Gaughan says.

Gaughan has created a wealth of characters, filled with hope, anger, hurt, and questions.

Her "mothers" include Judy, a stay-at-home mom with two children and a workaholic – and often absent – partner, who can only imagine what a "good mother" would do; a worker in a '90s Mexican maquiladora – a dreamer and an artist – trying to hide her pregnancy so she won't lose her job; the matriarch of a Catholic family on the cusp

of both physical and spiritual transformation, who refuses to leave her post as church organist; a grandmother who passes her luck at the track on to her granddaughter; and an 11-year-old sister who finds herself – in the middle of a family move – in charge of her brother when her mother seems incapable.

"For most of the stories, I didn't consciously write about women I know," Gaughan says of her characters.

Two exceptions are "Leaping Clear" and "At the Track," which have characters loosely based on her grandmothers.

Even then, she says, "The details of the characters' lives and families are invented. By the time the stories took final form, most similarities to the real women had been overtaken by other ideas.

"But I like to think that some essence of my grandmothers – the way they spoke, their worldviews – has been recorded, and thus preserved, in these stories."

Characters like Maru, the seamstress in "Maquila Bird," and Dale, the contortionist in "Woman Cubed," are entirely imagined. Gaughan says that the starting point for a story is often based on a situation or scene, a scrap of language, and from there the characters start to emerge.

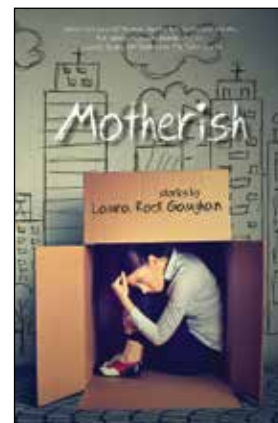
The characters all ring true to life, even so. Gaughan adds, "No doubt strands of my own experiences – the joys and anxieties of raising children, observations about other parents and caregivers – are woven into most of the characters. 🌿



REBEKAH LITTLEJOHN

"I like to think that some essence of my grandmothers – the way they spoke, their worldviews – has been recorded, and thus preserved, in these stories."

GAUGHAN



Writing representation into Arthurian legends

Classic tales reflect contemporary and ancient cultures

by Laura McKay



BY THE LIGHT OF CAMELOT

Edited by J. R. Campbell and Shannon Allen

EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing

(edgewebsite.com)

\$19.95 pb, 244 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77053-157-4

There is something within these stories that calls our very soul." So says Shannon Allen, co-editor with J. R. Campbell, of a new anthology of 12 stories and two poems inspired by the Knights of the Round Table and all things Camelot.

For the souls that are devoted King Arthur fans, *By the Light of Camelot* is a rich reading experience. However, knowledge of the older legends isn't necessary to enjoy the book; *By the Light of Camelot* brings Arthurian themes and characters into the 21st century, with stories that will interest Camelot enthusiasts and novices alike.

Contemporary sensibilities make themselves felt through the main characters – including a revisited Lady of Shalott – and address issues of representation and diversity that were missing in previous iterations.

"[The legends of Camelot] have survived and changed with the times, each incarnation reflecting the need of any given culture at the time. They are time capsules of the morals and social structures that tie them to the time they rose to popularity," says Allen, a writer and first-time editor based in Calgary.

Strong, active female characters are the norm in this book, with nary a damsel in distress in sight. Stories such as "The Song of the Star" by Renee Bennett and "Sir Tor and the River Maiden" by Colleen Anderson also address representation of a different variety.

Both feature a main character that was assigned female at birth, but has taken on a male identity and become a knight. Each has his own reasons for doing so, and the stories serve as a reminder that the LGBTQ* community has always existed, whether it was included in literature or not.

"Every generation views the stories through the lens of their time and certainly a better understanding of gender is part of this generation's goals," agrees Campbell, who also edits anthologies and writes in Calgary.

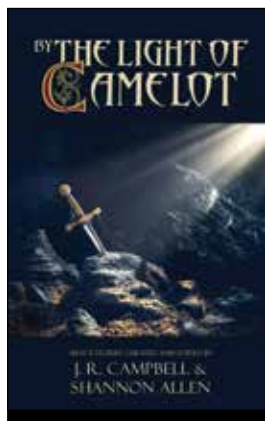
"Acceptance has always been part of [these] legends. People often forget how radical the stories are. I've been accused of political correctness when I point out that there were Muslims seated at the Round Table and searching for the Holy Grail, but that's all Malory in 1485."

The lens of our time has also created a darker, almost dystopian tone. The code of chivalry doesn't always work in the real world.

A knight desperately seeks the Holy Grail hundreds of years after the fall of Camelot. Another cannot die until Arthur's return – and suffers the fate of a man who's been alive for thousands of years. *By the Light of Camelot* is a fitting title, if a touch ironic.

"The title was set as a beacon," says Allen. "When all is lost, we all look for that one point to anchor ourselves to."

"I think that some of our stories have a dark edge because they, like retellings of old, are a reflection of our time. Writers write their demons and heroes, they lay the questions of their age on the page for examination, to view life from the page and deem it as fiction in order to process it. As with life or prose, we all look for that beacon to draw us home." 🌟



"I think that some of our stories have a dark edge because they, like retellings of old, are a reflection of our time." ALLEN

A COMPLEX PAIRING DELVES INTO GENETICS AND IDENTITY

Themes of family dynamics, fluidity, and loss follow these twins' story

by Quentin Mills-Fenn

TWIN STUDIES

Keith Maillard
Freehand Books
(freehand-books.com)
\$24.95 pb, 640 pages
ISBN: 978-1-988298-31-3

Vancouver-based Keith Maillard has published more than a dozen novels in his long career. His latest, *Twin Studies*, concerns a brother and sister who claim to be identical twins. What follows is a story about identity, loss, and gender. And twins.

"The interest comes from some mysterious place inside my psyche," he says. It started when he read a review of Nancy Segal's book about twins, *Entwined Lives*, and the twins began talking to him.

"They said exactly what they say at the opening of the book: 'We are identical twins and we very much want to be in your Twin Study,' and then they went on talking and talking. I could have told them to go away, but I didn't. Instead I began to write down what they were saying, and that was the beginning of the book."

Dr. Erica Bauer agrees to meet the two, Devon and Jamie, as part of her research. It isn't too long before the reader learns that Erica once had a twin sister who recently died.

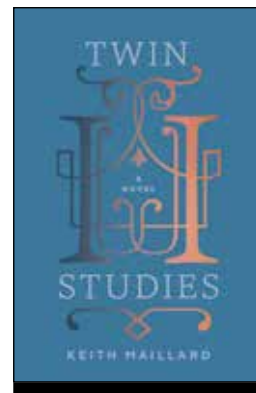
"One of the many things that I was exploring in the book was the impact of traumatic experiences," Maillard says, "the ones that leave us deeply depressed and distressed and non-functional. How Erica deals with it is, of course, her own way, and nobody should read my novel, or any novel, as a self-help guide. I do hope, though, to raise these issues and get people thinking about them. I should end with that standard and excellent advice: If you're in some distress, please seek help."

Related to the ideas about twins and trauma, and perhaps more central to the novel, is the concern with gender fluidity. Maillard did his research, and acknowledges the help of many experts, including geneticists.

"One of the things I wanted to dispel," he says, "is the notion that a lot of people have that there is a thing called 'science' that tells us humans come in only two varieties, male or female, XY or XX. That's simply not true. We actually come in a dizzying array of variants, and the more we know about genetics, the more we see how complex it is."

And for children to thrive, people have to acknowledge that complexity.

"Physicians and therapists who work with children and adolescents are telling us that a gender-affirming point of view from parents and, if possible, from the surrounding culture, makes for healthy and happy kids," he says, "and I firmly believe that."



"One of the things I wanted to dispel is the notion that a lot of people have that there is a thing called 'science' that tells us humans come in only two varieties, male or female, XY or XX." MAILLARD

Maillard creates an engaging parent figure in Karen Oxley, Jamie and Devon's mother, who is often bewildered but makes the effort to keep her family grounded. Her perspective brings an added richness to this big and intricate novel.

"I was trying to write the kind of novel I grew up respecting – the large book of ideas," he says. "Then I also wanted to create a sense of an ongoing, unfolding story that creates an entire solid world that readers can depend on to continue, a world where they can return and live."

"So that's my invitation. Come on in. If you like it, stay for a while and see what happens." 🌿

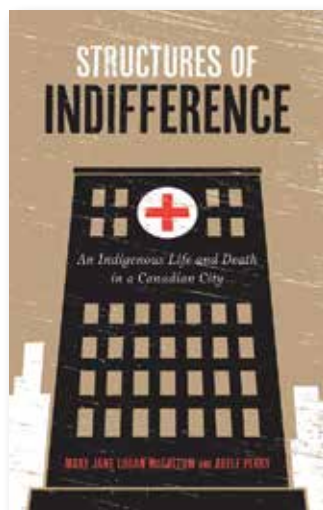


MARY MAILLARD

An Indigenous life and death in a Canadian city

"You can't really sugarcoat the colonial genealogy that killed Brian Sinclair. *Structures of Indifference* offers a direct framing of the death of Brian Sinclair as a clear instance of racism, a racism that is the basis of Canadian settler colonialism."

— Sherene H. Razack, UCLA



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MORE FICTION

ALL OF US IN OUR OWN LIVES

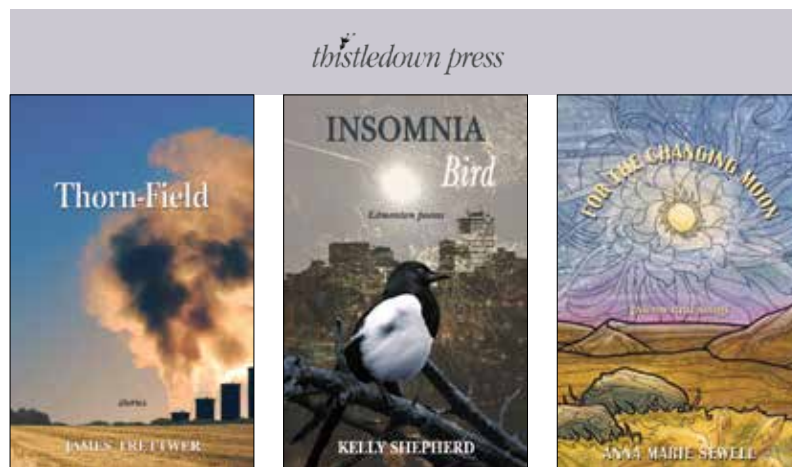
Manjushree Thapa

Examining human interconnectedness, privilege, and the dual nature of international aid (its idealism and its moneyed nature), this novel is about Ava Berriden, a Canadian lawyer who moves to Nepal to begin a career in international aid and connect with the country of her birth. (Freehand Books, \$21.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988298-34-4)

BAD IMAGININGS

Caroline Adderson

Originally published in 1993, this collection of 10 intense stories features characters ranging from a 19th-century prospector to a chambermaid in Victoria in the Second World War to two longtime friends trying to figure out the '80s. (Biblioasis, \$19.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77196-186-8)



978-1-77187-170-9

Thorn-Field
James Trettwer

"With dramatic flair and gutsy dialogue *Thorn-Field* exposes [the characters'] reality and . . . daily struggles against disappointment, pain, addiction and loneliness toward hope. . . a thoughtful, compassionate, accomplished debut." — Connie Gault

978-1-77187-169-3

Insomnia Bird
Kelly Shepherd

The Black-billed Magpie is protagonist and muse; the poems speed like a NAIT train and dive like magpies after a tasty image or a crumb of detail.

978-1-77187-168-6

For the Changing Moon
Anna Marie Sewell

The energy of slam, the beat structures of chant; enter spells and incantations built with an ear for sound and an eye for images of dream and wonder.

www.thistledownpress.com | Available at your local bookstore

HIDING SCARS**Richard Zaric**

Mark arrives in Winnipeg in 1913 to start a new life, and that life includes Mildred, who was once beautiful but is now horribly scarred, in this historical novel that spans the Great War, prohibition, and the influenza epidemic, and culminates in the explosive General Strike of 1919.

(Sands Press, \$19.99 pb, 412 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988281-41-4)

HUMMINGBIRD**Devin Krukoff**

This intense, haunting novel follows Felix, an anxious and disturbed writer who has been losing time since university, and who now finds himself with a woman he doesn't know, having written a book he doesn't remember writing, while experiencing jarring flashbacks that do not bode well for his future.

(Freehand Books, \$21.95 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988298-37-5)

LEFT**Theanna Bischoff**

This suspenseful novel tells the story of missing 29-year-old Natasha Bell through a variety of perspectives, including those of Abby, her younger sister; Greg, her ex-boyfriend; Josie, her born-again Christian best friend; Reuben, the investigating police officer; and tip-line messages, Natasha's old diary entries, and news announcer transcripts.

(NeWest Press, \$19.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988732-43-5)

MOON OF THE CRUSTED SNOW**Waubgeshig Rice**

Blending action and allegory, this post-apocalyptic novel shows how resilience rises. When a small northern Anishinaabe community is overrun with manipulative visitors from the south after a catastrophe, the people turn to Evan Whitesky to lead them back to the land and Anishinaabe tradition to thrive again.

(ECW Press, \$17.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-400-6)

THE MUSICIAN'S COMPASS: A 12-STEP PROGRAMME**Del Suelo**

Devon is the bass player for a folk-punk band that is finally starting to go places, until things collapse the morning after their gig in Berlin. This novel includes an appendix of music theory that forms the structure of the story. A companion full-length 12-song CD is available, sold separately, with each song corresponding to a specific chapter.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$16.96 pb, 136 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-32-1)

REMEMBRANCE**Bess Hamilton**

Maggie Lancaster was not sad when her husband William died in the First World War, but when he comes home, seven years later, unable to speak and with no memory, she feels compelled to uncover the secrets from before and during the war.

(Sands Press, \$19.99 pb, 274 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988281-43-8)

SOMEWHERE NORTH OF NORMAL**Adam Lindsay Honsinger**

The short stories in this collection defy what is deemed impossible and bend reality, granting lost souls – an electrocuted artist, a man who wakes after falling four stories – transcendence and emotional reconciliation.

(Enfield & Wizenty-Great Plains, \$21.95 pb, 238 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-006-4)

MYSTERIES

ANOTHER SPY FOR PARIS**Robert J. Young**

Canadian history professor Andrew Stanhope, while doing research in Paris on the German invasion of France, stumbles upon the story of Marius Michel, the principal deputy of France's counter-intelligence agency, and his attempts to track down a traitorous German spy.

(Signature Editions, \$18.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-34-3)

THE CAT AMONG US**Louise Carson**

Gerry Coneybear is spending her first Christmas at the Maples, with no one but the 23 cats her aunt left her to help her celebrate in this third Maples Mystery. The discovery of a 100-year-old skeleton in her wood shed and then a much more recent body give Gerry, and the cats, lots to investigate.

(Signature Editions, \$16.95 pb, 222 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-15-2)

COLD SKIES**Thomas King**

In this third DreadfulWater Mystery, the ex-cop photographer Thumps reluctantly helps the Chinook sheriff investigate the murders of two strangers in town for a major water conference – the keynote speaker and the scientist behind the revolutionary water extraction technology that they were going to present.

(HarperCollins, \$22.99 pb, 464 pages, ISBN: 978-1-44345-514-5)

A DARKNESS OF THE HEART**Gail Bowen**

Joanne Kilbourn continues to deal with family secrets and brutal crime with characteristic grace and compassion in this 18th novel of the series, where big-time movie makers come to Regina at the same time that Joanne discovers hidden truths about her origins.

(McClelland & Stewart, \$27.95 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-771-0975-4)

DISHONOUR IN CAMP 133**Wayne Arthurson**

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

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

DYING ON SECOND**E. C. Bell**

Marie Jenner takes to the baseball field in her fourth paranormal mystery. The ghosts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

that won't leave her alone this time are 20 members of a female softball team, who just want to be left alone to play ball, but of course, that isn't going to happen. (Tyche Books, \$19.95 pb, 318 pages, ISBN: 978-1-928025-72-6)

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Janice MacDonald

Randy and Steve are on their honeymoon in Puerto Vallarta, escaping the cold Edmonton winter, along with University of Alberta students off on their spring break. When a student is found dead, Randy and Steve put aside romance and put their investigative skills to work. (Turnstone Press, \$16.95 pb, 350 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-649-2)

PAUL IS DEAD

C. C. Benison

For 40 years, Lydia Eadon and Dorian Grant have been carrying the secret of what happened to Paul Godwin at the lakeside cottage at the end of the summer of 1969 – but now Lydia's mother has died and left the cottage to her, and Lydia and Dorian must face their past. (Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-31-2)

SEA OF CORTEZ

Garry Ryan

In this 10th Detective Lane Mystery, Lane and his husband Arthur are conscripted into working undercover to investigate the Mexico-Canada drug connection after a series of assassinations rocks Calgary's underworld. (NeWest Press, \$18.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988732-39-8)

FANTASY & SCI FI

ARMED IN HER FASHION

Kate Heartfield

In this historical fantasy horror novel, 1328 Bruges is under attack by the Chatelaine of Hell and her chimera army. Widow Margriet, together with her daughter Beatrix, a transgender man-at-arms, and the wife of a wealthy alderman, sets out to raid Hell for the riches her dead

husband stole from her to offer to the Chatelaine.

(ChiZine Publications, \$19.99 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77148-452-7)

DARK SEA RISING

Barry Broad and Drew Mendelson

In this suspenseful sci-fi thriller, a remote deep-sea oil drill blows apart, pushing the energy company that owns it toward bankruptcy, and two civilizations – one living on the deepest sea floor – toward a conflict that could destroy both of them. (EDGE, \$20.95 pb, 308 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-176-5)

ENDLESS HUNGER

Kevin Weir

In a future world full of megacities, wireless technologies, and augmented humans, Kraft is unusual in that he sees monsters, so what should be an easy job like cleaning a corporation's computer system involves a dark cult, a battle with faeries, and a computer virus that reaches into the real world in this blend of science fiction and fantasy. (EDGE, \$19.95 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-178-9)

GASLIGHT GOTHIC: STRANGE TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec

Ten years after the publication of *Gaslight Grimoire*, this latest Gaslight anthology of Sherlockian pastiches explores the darkest side of Sherlock Holmes. Ten tales of modern horror delve deep into the gothic tradition of madness and monsters, fear and obsession, desire and loathing. (EDGE, \$19.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-159-8)

THE GENOME RALLY

Arlene F. Marks

In Book 4 of the Sic Transit Terra space opera series, a bickering bunch of Humans and aliens have to work together to stop the Thryggians from activating a psi-powered heavy ship left over from an ancient war, a ship that will make them unstoppable. (EDGE, \$19.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-184-0)

GRAVEYARD MIND

Chadwick Ginther

Winter Murray is the necromancer of Winnipeg, keeping the dead in their place, with the help of her friend Frank, a composite man. As if creatures like Christophe the vampire, McCoy the animate skeleton, and Grannie Annie, her dead mentor, weren't trouble enough, now she has to join with Billy and his hellhound in a fight against an escaped spirit. (ChiZine Publications, \$19.99 pb, 336 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77148-463-3)

PARALLEL PRAIRIES: STORIES

Edited by Darren Ridgley and Adam Petrash

The Prairies are full of life, life from other worlds, as in baby dragons, killer insects, faery kings, infernal entities and more, in these weird and wondrous tales from 19 authors inspired by the Manitoban landscape. (Enfield & Wizenzy-Great Plains, \$21.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-003-3)

PATHS TO THE STARS: TWENTY-TWO FANTASTICAL TALES OF IMAGINATION

Edward Willett
This collection of stories, some new, some previously published, by the Aurora Award-winning author take readers not only to the far future and the farthest reaches of the universe, but also to places like small-town Saskatchewan, following diverse characters including artistic types, journalists, academics, and of course, adventurers in space. (Shadowpaw Press, \$19.95 pb, 324 pages, ISBN: 978-1-9993827-0-4)

REJOICE, A KNIFE TO THE HEART

Steven Erikson

This provocative and visionary novel of first contact is one where there is no contact – the aliens do not arrive – but the world is transformed into one with no violence, no borders, no crime, and where the government leaders, scientists, and military have no idea what is going on. (Promontory Press, \$29.95 hc, 466 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77374-012-6)

**SHADES WITHIN US: TALES OF
MIGRATIONS AND FRACTURED BORDERS**

Edited by Susan Forest and Lucas K. Law

The 21 stories in this anthology of speculative fiction examine assumptions and look at the dreams of people who, by force or choice, have left their homes and now straddle borders, the borders between the need for the comfort of tradition and the familiar and the need to strive for a better life.

(Laksa Media Groups, 408 pages, \$36.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-988140-08-7; \$19.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-988140-05-6)

TOMORROW

Merilyn Ruth Liddel

In a world decimated by a killer virus, in an isolated mountain community, the lives of three strangers – Martha, a doctor investigating the pandemic, Jake, a cab driver looking for his birth mother, and Sophie, a young pregnant woman seeking refuge from abuse – intersect.

(EDGE, \$19.95 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-181-9)

TRANSMIGRATIONS

Eddie Louise

Book I of the Tales of Sage & Savant series is a steampunk adventure about Justin Bremer, who studies the effects of time travel by observing and documenting the fantastical transmigrations of Dr. Petronella Sage and her archeologist friend Erasmus Savant.

(EDGE, \$24.95 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77053-180-2)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

ARK LAND

Scott A. Ford

Over a century ago, arks filled with alien flora and fauna started falling from space, populating the world and sparking a mystery about who was out there sending them.

Kairn is an Ark Land scavenger, gathering and selling ark debris, until a sizeable reward for the latest ark debris sends her on a quest unlike any adventure she's ever had before.

(ChiGraphic, \$24.99 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77148-456-5)

SOVEREIGN TRACES: NOT (JUST) (AN)OTHER

Edited by Gordon Henry Jr.

and Elizabeth LaPensée

This collection adapts works of contemporary North American Indigenous fiction and poetry by such authors as Gerald Vizenor, Warren Cariou, Louise Erdrich, Joy Harjo, and Richard Van Camp into the graphic novel form with imaginative illustrations.

(Michigan State University Press, \$29.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-93806-506-4)

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 **What the Poets Are Doing** is a collection of conversations between millennial and Generation X poets focusing on the role of poetry and poets in the twenty-first century.
edited by Rob Taylor
INTERVIEWS


**THE LONG ROAD
BECKONS**

15-year-old Alex and Derek, 40, are hounded by different demons when they meet. Sorrow leads to a surprising friendship, but it is a friendship that grows bolder through understanding and trust. *Those Who Walk the Road* is the richly detailed debut from Manitoba novelist Will George – a talent to watch.

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Giving voice to Russia's last tsarina

Experiences in motherhood connect across continents and centuries

by Quentin Mills-Fenn

MRS ROMANOV

Lori Cayer

The Porcupine's Quill

(porcupinesquill.ca)

\$16.95 pb, 112 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88984-417-9

Winnipeg poet Lori Cayer's latest book focuses on an unlikely subject: the last tsarina of Russia, Alexandra.

Mrs Romanov reads like a memoir in verse, from Alix's marriage to the future tsar, Nicholas, to the birth of her children and her relationship with Rasputin, to the time her world came crashing down. Alexandra and her whole family were executed in a town in Siberia in 1918.



Cayer admits to feeling some connection to this woman who died exactly 100 years ago.

"My interest in her started as that of a mother

of a hemophiliac being fascinated with another mother who was trying to manage this incurable disease in a time when there was no medication or treatment," she says.

"As I learned about her I became deeply interested in her as a woman, mother, and empress who had money, privilege, and every modern opportunity, and yet she could do nothing but stand by and hope her son would live to adulthood to take the throne."

Cayer did considerable research, reading biographies of the family and Rasputin; histories of the Romanovs, the autocracy, the revolutions; memoirs of their entourage and family members and of their commandants; scientific papers and books about their remains and identification.

"I got a good feel for her as a person from reading what diaries and letters have survived and been printed," she says. "The family burned most of their private papers while in captivity but much can be learned by [reading] the writings of others who were around them."

"My research took me into the depths of her marriage, her religious zealotry, and her political meddling through to World War I and the revolution. I could happily spend the rest of my life continuing to read about these people and Alexandra in particular."

Mrs Romanov is written in the imagined voice of the tsarina, and most of the poems take the form of couplets. Cayer explains why she chose this form.

"I liked the old-fashioned look of it," she says, "and it made sense

to use it because I was writing from a perspective of excerpts, like you might find in diary entries or letters.

"It fit the way I was using English, or rather recreating her actual voice."

The second half of the book takes place after the abdication and revolution, when the family was under house arrest, and the style of the poems changes to reflect that.

These poems have the headers "The Rule" and "The Light."

"Visually they look like blocky lists, lines close together, and to me represent fists or official notices," Cayer says.

While Cayer developed Alexandra's voice through reading both primary and secondary sources, her understanding of the person goes deeper.

"I did give her a voice," Cayer says, "and it is a voice very like her own real voice in writing. I extrapolated from her writings and my research, but what gave me my perspective was locating the voice of a woman whose concerns are still shared woman to woman with the experience of women 100 years later." 🌿



"What gave me my perspective was locating the voice of a woman whose concerns are still shared woman to woman with the experience of women 100 years later." CAYER

Architecture, erasure, and the allure of New York City

Poetic examination of the High Line park builds on author's doctoral dissertation

by Ariel Gordon

THE HIGH LINE SCAVENGER HUNT

Lucas Crawford

University of Calgary Press (press.ucalgary.ca)

\$18.99, 128 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77385-000-9

Born in rural Nova Scotia, transgender poet and English professor Lucas Crawford lived and worked all over Canada before arriving at the University of New Brunswick, but his second collection of poetry takes him further afield still: to Manhattan's High Line park.

Crawford's work, academic and creative, focuses on queer theory, transgender studies, and architecture, as well as discourses of fat. *The High Line Scavenger Hunt*, published through University of Calgary Press's Brave & Brilliant series, draws on all these areas while also exploring a particular time and place.

"My goal for this book, initially, was to write a book-length analysis of the High Line park to help publicize the fact that the park's fame obscures other histories of the space," Crawford says.

His goal grew along the way and became broader: to imagine different ways that cities and histories could work, and to ask himself about the ways that he could relate to large cities as a rural person.

"Another underlying goal," he continues, "was to experiment with the relationship between architecture, bodies, and poetry. What is a poetics of architecture? What is a built poetry? How is the body built via language and urban planning?"

This project goes back to the 1990s, when Crawford attended a summer architecture intensive in New York. While there, he studied the High Line, a rail line in

Manhattan's Meatpacking District that was abandoned from 1980 until 2006, when it was turned into an urban park.

But writing about the erasure of High Line's queer and racialized communities was not without its challenges.

"I'd like people to know that the book is not an attempt to accurately capture or represent any one history or community that lived in or around the High Line park," Crawford says.

"While I researched thoroughly, I could only take up the topic as a rural queer and trans person who has had to live with the shadow of New York City's supposed omnipotence as a queer centre. I could only take up and theorize my own outsider status and write about the place as a trans person who was not a trans person who lived there in the 1990s."

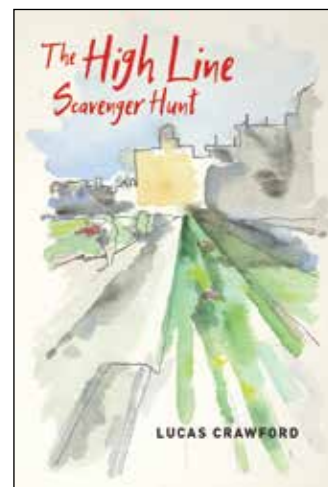
So why was it important to tell these stories?

"The short answer is that these stories are not told often enough," Crawford says.

"Another short answer is that architecture fans around the world (but especially in the United States) have looked to the High Line park with a kind of awe, even treating it as an avatar of urban improvement. Its very popularity, then, was a reason to look deeper."

Also, Crawford's doctoral dissertation included a section on design studio Diller Scofidio + Renfro, which was part of the team that redesigned the High Line. He was already thinking about the architects' work and wanted to try to reach out to a different audience.

"Any one book can't capture an author's entire philosophy of life or all of their beliefs or practices," Crawford says. "So, for me, writing in different genres means that I can try to send provocations out there via different channels, and that is important to me." 🌿



MORE POETRY

BEYOND FORGETTING: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF AL PURDY

Various Contributors

Marking the centenary of Al Purdy's birth, this anthology of poems written in tribute to him includes poets such as Milton Acorn, David Zieroth, Lorna Crozier, Cornelia Hoogland, Patrick Lane, Bruce Cockburn, Steven Heighton, and many more. (Harbour Publishing, \$22.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55017-846-3)

BLACKBIRD SONG

Randy Lundy

Through close attention to elm trees and blackbirds, coulees and coyotes, these poems explore memory and nature in precise meditations, teaching readers to "hear the oxidized hinges on the doors of perception / squeak, opening and closing, swinging an inch or two, in the just-now / rise of wind." (University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-557-2)

GOD OF SHADOWS

Lorna Crozier

Playful and profound, these prose poems present a pantheon of gods that includes the god of wind (the envy of all the other gods), the god of the disregarded, the god of insects (who will outlast them all), and of course, the god of sex (very busy, and obsessed with flowers). (McClelland & Stewart, \$25.00 hc, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7710-7313-7)

I TUMBLE THROUGH THE DIAMOND DUST: A COLLECTION OF FANTASTICAL POEMS

Edward Willett, illustrated by Wendi Nordell

In response to a challenge by then-poet laureate Gerald Hill to members of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild to create new work inspired by or incorporating two first lines from poems by Saskatchewan poets, award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer Willett has crafted 21 poems that portray dystopian, mythical, virtual, and outer worlds. (Your Nickel's Worth, \$19.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-17-8)

NIGHT FLYING

Laurie Anne Fuhr

This collection of poems portrays the magic of the Prairies and the Rockies (with a touch of Ottawa) – the skies and storms, city bars and farm combines, the silence and the music – in all its surrealism and everydayness. (Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927823-82-8)

NOUVEAU GRIOT

Tanya Evanson

This acclaimed spoken-word poet presents poems intended for orality that dance and conjure, observe keenly and critique sharply – she is, in the words of George Elliott Clarke, "a bit of Amiri Baraka cut with a little Rumi." (Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927823-84-2)

ONE-WAY TICKET

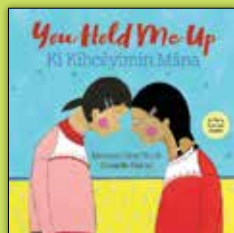
Robert Currie

Currie explores domestic and public life and how experiences change, or don't, from one generation to the next in these poems written in a variety of voices,

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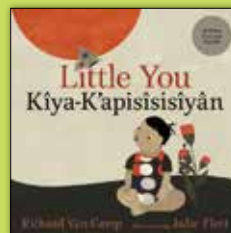
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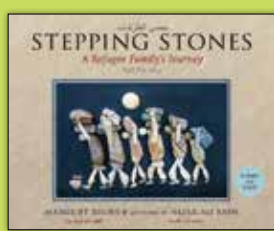
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including those of classic poets as well as of Saskatchewan poets past and present. (Coteau Books, \$17.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55050-952-6)

PAPER CASKETS

Emilia Danielewska

Each of these box-shaped prose poems tells the story of a life, however short, and of a death, however heartbreaking, in this debut collection that looks beyond grief to where memory and body collide. This is the first title in the Crow Said poetry series.

(NeWest Press, \$18.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988732-36-7)

ROOSTER, DOG, CROW

Jim Nason

Creating a satirical love triangle like no other, Nason's poetry of anthropomorphic and allegoric animals is both political and personal as it moves from chaos to the tender edges of queer lives.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927823-85-9)

RUBA'IYAT FOR THE TIME OF APRICOTS

Basma Kavanagh

This stunning long poem in the tradition of the Persian four-line form uses images of plants and food, blood, underground creatures, Middle Eastern architecture and fabric, and cycles of life to explore ideas of family, culture, heredity, poetry, home, language, gender inequity, and how they interweave and intersect.

(Frontenac House Poetry, \$19.95 pb, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927823-81-1)

THE STEEPS OF TIME: POEMS & PAINTINGS

Victor Carl Friesen

Before he took a literary direction career-wise, Friesen studied painting, and in this book, he includes 16 of his paintings done in the 1950s to accompany his poems reflecting on nature, life as a farmboy, poetry, and art. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$25.00 pb, 166 pages, with full colour images, ISBN: 978-1-988783-22-2)

TREATY 6 DEIXIS

Christine Stewart

This long poem explores how poetic practices might undermine racist

ideologies and colonialism to create compassionate communities by investigating what it means to be a non-Indigenous inhabitant of Treaty 6 territory. (Talonbooks, \$16.95 pb, 139 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77201-212-5)

WANISKÁTOTA KĀ PĚ WĀPAHK

David Groulx, translated by Randy Morin

This Cree edition of Groulx's poetry collection *Rising with a Distant Dawn* captures the power, insight, and poignancy of the original poems, making them accessible to a new audience while supporting the maintenance of the Cree language.


(Bookland Press, \$16.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77231-080-1)

WHAT WE ARE, WHEN WE ARE / KAJ SMO, KO SMO

Cvetka Lipuš, translated by Tom Priestly





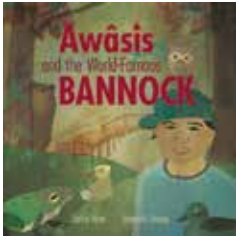
This bilingual collection of poems originally written in Slovenian blends the real with the surreal, dull urban lives with dreams, exploring time and space with fluidity and humour.

(Athabasca University Press, \$19.99 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-249-7)

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Motivation for playwrights, comedy for readers

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by Kyla Neufeld

THE LONG & SHORT OF IT:

A selection of short plays written by the Prairie Theatre Exchange Playwrights Unit

Edited by Brian Drader

Scirocco Drama-J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing

(jgshillingford.com)

\$15.95 pb, 124 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927922-42-2

A debate about pies, an argument about alien abductions, adolescent chess players, and a zombie asking to be remembered: all of these can be found in *The Long & Short of It: A selection of short plays written by the Prairie Theatre Exchange Playwrights Unit*, a new collection of “Short Shots” written by the Prairie Theatre Exchange Playwrights Unit and edited by Brian Drader, the executive director of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights.

The Playwrights Unit was formed in 2007 and acts as a support group for playwrights, offering workshops and help with writing grants or support letters. It is currently made up of 10 Winnipeg-based playwrights.

“I’m not sure I would be writing if it wasn’t for the Playwrights Unit. It’s just a good way to be accountable as well. You think, ‘Oh, I have a meeting coming up, I’d better have something prepared,’” says Ginny Collins, whose play “The Propeller Moment” appears in the new collection.

Every year, the Playwrights Unit showcases new plays during the Carol Shields Festival of New Works. *The Long & Short of It* represents the best of those 50-plus plays by playwrights such as Sharon Bajer, Joseph Aragon, Rick Chafe, Debbie Patterson, James Durham, and Alix Sobler.

“There was such a cohesive voice to all of these. It ended up, I think, fitting together really well,” says Collins, adding that most of the plays have a comedic slant.

“I like, too, that it feels like a snapshot of what that experience [of writing for the Carol Shields Festival] has been like,” adds Trish Cooper, author of the play “Life of Pie.”

“I actually think for anyone else it would be fun to read,” says Cooper. “There’s a lot going on.”

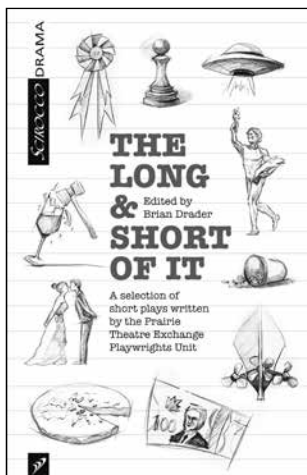
The Long & Short of It is dedicated to Bob Metcalfe, artistic director of PTE for 15 years, who founded both the Playwrights Unit and the Carol Shields Festival. Metcalfe has commissioned, nurtured, and produced 19 plays through the Playwrights Unit and has been a source of constant support and encouragement for local playwrights.

“When we found out that Bob Metcalfe would be leaving Prairie Theatre Exchange, we thought it would be a loving parting gift to give him, to publish this book and dedicate it to him,” Collins says. “We presented it to him at the last Carol Shields Festival where he was the artistic director.”

For Brian Drader, who recently returned to Winnipeg to head MAP after being the director of playwriting at the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal from 2004 to 2017, editing *The Long & Short of It* was like catching up with old friends.

“The PTE Unit represents many of this city’s most talented and active playwrights,” he says. “And what a pleasure to dig into their plays! To experience how my old colleagues have grown as artists and storytellers, to experience the work of two former students who have come fully into their own, and to discover the work of new playwrights who I didn’t know except by reputation.”

Drader concludes, “To be able to so quickly get reacquainted with old colleagues and meet new ones was a blessing.”



Visions of accountability, healing through poetry

Editor offers “shelter of a book” for those struggling with sexual assault trauma

by Ariel Gordon

RESISTANCE

Edited by Sue Goyette

Coteau Books (coteaubooks.com)

\$29.95 pb, 144 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55050-958-8



In March 2016, Jian Ghomeshi was acquitted of choking and sexual assault charges. Throughout the trial, Halifax-based poet Sue Goyette had been posting on Facebook, expressing her outrage, trying to support her friends.

And then suddenly there was a way to work with the pain and anger that so many people were feeling.

“I was approached by a publisher who had liked what I had been posting on Facebook about the Ghomeshi fallout, how re-traumatizing it was and how painful that lack of accountability continues to be,” Goyette says.

“He asked if I’d be interested in editing an anthology of work by people who felt ready to express their experiences, and we both agreed that the collection could help continue the conversation while alleviating the pain/silence for people who were ready for words.”

The resulting book, entitled *Resistance*, features over 80 poets, including Joan Crate, Katherine Lawrence, and Beth Goobie.

Goyette has written six award-winning books of poetry and a novel, and has edited two anthologies. But this project felt different, right from the beginning.

“Working on this project gave me the opportunity to create a space for work that thematically deals with pain and the vulnerability engaging with personal pain entails,” Goyette says. “In that spirit, I didn’t edit so much as curate the collection, create and hold the space for work that engages and reclaims its proper place in this conversation we’re all having.”

While Goyette believes that the justice system re-traumatizes victims of sexual assault, she thinks literature can provide healing.

“The hardest thing about personal pain is the feeling of isolation, which sustains the shame that begets silence and so on,” Goyette says. “I think literature, and the shelter of a book, provides company and a space to encounter ourselves by the way we respond to it.

“Reading this kind of book affords contemplation, reflection, and, hopefully, an exportation of the shame and pain that has been inarticulate, inconsolable for some readers, to a more participatory understanding that relieves the aloneness while honouring the singularity of our experiences. In other words, books can provide a space to reckon and reconcile, and a place to begin to heal for the company they give and for the welcome.”

Since the Ghomeshi trial, a number of Canadian creative writing programs and cultural institutions

have come under fire for the misconduct of their stars. The #MeToo movement began and, in the US, there was the downfall of Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey. But has anything really changed?

Goyette thinks so.

“We are talking out loud now and connecting on social media, publicly, about the top-heavy power imbalance the patriarchal and gendered rape culture we are inherently part of that keeps reenacting inappropriate behaviour and beliefs,” Goyette says. “And that talk and those connections are not stopping. So yes, change is afoot.

“It seems now we need to figure out what accountable and reparative action looks like. We need to acknowledge the complex trauma some of us live with and the vulnerability and/or anger that it takes to

acknowledge that pain. This is just the beginning, I think.”



“It seems now we need to figure out what accountable and reparative action looks like.” GOYETTE

No easy choice in the face of unforgiveable crimes

Novel explores remarkable faith and courage in a culture of denial and secrecy

by Margaret Goldik

WOMEN TALKING

Miriam Toews

Alfred A. Knopf Canada (penguinrandomhouse.ca)

\$29.95 hc, 240 pages

ISBN: 978-0-7352-7396-2

Miriam Toews's latest novel, *Women Talking*, packs a wallop. Based on a true incident, deeply felt and timely, here Toews probes topics ranging from migration to redemption.

In a remote Mennonite colony in Bolivia, over a period of years, many girls and women would wake up “feeling drowsy and in pain, their bodies bruised and bleeding, having been attacked in the night.” Several men from the colony had been responsible for the rapes, drugging the women with an animal anaesthetic.

At the start of the novel, the accused men are in jail, awaiting trial. The bishop and the elders have gone to the city to raise bail for the men, to return them to the colony. Then the women will be “given the opportunity to forgive these men, thus guaranteeing everyone’s place in heaven.”

If the women won’t forgive, they will have to leave the colony, excommunicated and banished to the outside world, of which they know nothing.

Toews explains, “Rape and sexual assault are, in part, crimes of entitlement. Any Mennonite woman who has experienced living

in a religiously conservative community, which are by nature authoritarian and patriarchal, understands the culture of shame, guilt, and silence, and how denial and secrecy and obedience are exploited, even to extremes.”

She goes on to say, “I think it’s important to use the words ‘hatred of women,’ when we talk about what motivates these assaults, and then to, again, attempt to understand how this hatred is created.”

The women meet in a loft to discuss their options: do nothing, fight back, or leave. Over the course of two days they hammer out what it is they want: for their children to be safe, to keep their faith, and to be allowed to think. This is revolutionary. “Within their patriarchal culture, like patriarchal cultures everywhere, their voices don’t count,” Toews says.

One of the men, Klaas, disrupts the women’s discussion by his unexpected return. “Klaas is a man who has been well indoctrinated into this type of religion-based patriarchy: entitled, violent, fearful,” Toews says. “Whatever sense of fairness or respect or kindness he may have once had has been reprogrammed by authoritarian and fundamentalist thought. The boys and men in these types of communities need to be re-taught, and given back their humanity.”

When asked if there could ever be a real possibility of forgiveness for the harm done to the children, Toews answers, “Objectively, I like to think so, yes. But as a mother and grandmother, it’s difficult to imagine myself getting to that place.

“But I think it’s important that we attempt to understand how these types of abuses happen, how they are allowed to happen, and to work at stopping them from happening, even with the knowledge that we can’t necessarily ‘forgive’ those who commit them. I don’t believe that we need to ‘forgive’ in order to move forward, especially in order to move forward to something more constructive like a pragmatic, sociological understanding of the circumstances in which these abuses happen, and prevention.”



CAROL LOEWEN

“It’s important that we attempt to understand how these types of abuses happen, how they are allowed to happen, and to work at stopping them from happening, even with the knowledge that we can’t necessarily ‘forgive’ those who commit them.” TOEWS

Rooster Town emerges from the shadows

Métis community's history has been overlooked in settler research

by Margaret Anne Fehr

ROOSTER TOWN:

The History of an Urban Métis Community, 1901–1961

Evelyn Peters, Matthew Stock, and Adrian Werner

University of Manitoba Press
(uofmpress.ca)

\$27.95 pb, 232 pages

with black & white images, maps, appendices, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-0-88755-825-2



The establishment of a largely Métis community on the city fringes likely provided some shelter from attitudes and behaviours at the time, while giving access to the

urban economy and services such as education.”

The formation of Rooster Town shows how the Métis adapted to take part in city life while maintaining their own community to shelter themselves from the racism and prejudice of the time.

“I wouldn’t classify this as active resistance to colonialism/racism,” Peters says, “but, in trying to find a better future for themselves and their families, Rooster Town residents did challenge existing attitudes and expectations.”

The origin of the community’s colourful appellation is still somewhat shrouded in mystery, Peters says.

“One popular explanation is that it reflected the chickens that everyone owned and that ran around the bush, but Frank Sais, who grew up in Rooster Town, said he almost never saw chickens there. Another is that transients sometimes rested or ‘roosted’ there. The first recorded instance of that name was in a 1909 newspaper article, and it was known to settlers and residents, so we settled on that because it was the most widely recognized.”

The historical reconstruction was extremely time-consuming, taking over four years to amass, but it was necessary work, bringing Métis urban history to light.

“Virtually no research has been conducted that addresses the history of Métis people in cities. Work on Indigenous people and municipal colonialism has focused entirely on First Nations people. Métis peoples’ experience was very different and we wanted to explore one aspect of those experiences,” Peters says.

Peters, Stock, and Werner are not Métis, so they are careful to articulate the reasons they undertook this work. First, there was a certain urgency to get started while there were still people alive who had lived in Rooster Town.

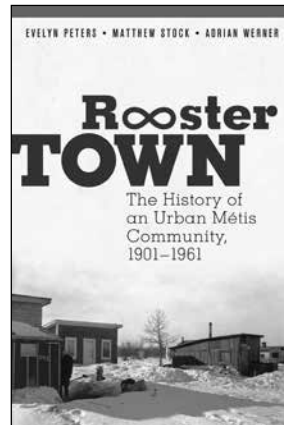
Second, because it was expensive and time-consuming research, it helped that Peters, a mature scholar, had the resources to hire researchers and pay for documents.

But Peters and her colleagues were sensitive to the risks of cultural appropriation.

“Although we do use the available socio-economic and demographic [data] to suggest motives and strategies, we are not

attempting to provide insights into Métis or Rooster Town cultures,” Peters says.

“We believe that perspective is appropriately left to Indigenous scholars.” 🌿



With the publication of *Rooster Town: The History of an Urban Métis Community, 1901–1961*, authors Evelyn Peters, Matthew Stock, and Adrian Werner have produced the most comprehensive account to date of the marginal Métis community that occupied the bush terrain of southwest Winnipeg from 1901 to 1961.

Rooster Town was established on the present-day location of the Grant Park Shopping Centre and environs, and consisted of an assemblage of modestly constructed lean-tos and shacks. While residents paid property taxes to Winnipeg, they received no city services like water or electricity in return.

As to how the Métis settlement came to be, Peters says, “The records suggest that household heads forming the early nucleus of the community were part of the segment of the Red River Métis who had been dispossessed of their lands and lived in deep poverty as agricultural labourers.

A RIVER'S MUSE AND A REVELATORY MEETING

Vermette centres the Red River and Métis history in two new works

by Ariel Gordon

RED RIVER RESISTANCE, A GIRL CALLED ECHO, VOL. 2

Katherena Vermette

Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

Coloured by Donovan Yaciuk

HighWater Press-Portage & Main Press (portageandmainpress.com)

\$18.95 pb, 48 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55379-747-0

RIVER WOMAN

Katherena Vermette

House of Anansi Press (houseofanansi.com)

\$19.95 pb, 112 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4870-0346-3



LISA DELORME MEILLER

In the summer of 2015, Winnipeg Métis writer Katherena Vermette found herself in a boat for days on end, filming what would become the award-winning NFB film *this river*.

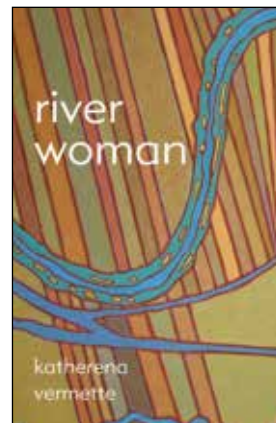
“For many people the river is a place of great loss and has been the focal point of missing persons searches for decades, since they have been searching for missing persons, I would think,” Vermette says.

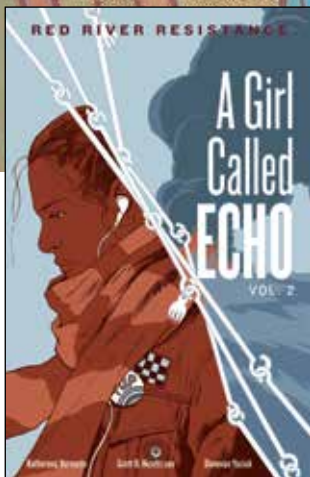
“We wanted to tell the story of Drag the Red, and how that ever-present loss that can actually propel these amazing families into activism and the betterment of their whole community, and we also wanted to show the river as the beautiful water carrier she is, not the nuisance many people think she is.”

The documentary was born from a poem she’d written in August 2014 called “river woman” in response to the tragedies of that summer, including the murder of Tina Fontaine.

Sitting in the boat, Vermette wrote what would become the second section of her sophomore book of poetry, *river woman*, a collection with the Red River at the centre, exploring loss, but also love.

“I was thinking of the river as source, theme, and muse,” Vermette says. “Her never-ending nature, the way she creates life and can take it too, the way she is older than all of us and new each day. That, and her immense beauty, always the beauty. Those are the things I hope I have properly conveyed.”





In the six years since *North End Love Songs* was published, a lot has changed for Vermette, but her poetry-writing process hasn't changed much.

"For me, poetry books seem to come very slowly," Vermette says. "I often write individual poems, but they don't seem to come together in any cohesive way for a long time. I have to sit with them, consider them, and figure out what my overall meanings could be and how they could link together."

By contrast, the idea for Vermette's graphic novel series *A Girl Called Echo* came into being relatively quickly.

"I went home and the story of Echo started to slowly unfold for me. I saw her, clear as day, and she could only have come alive through the graphic form." VERMETTE

"I was at the Portage & Main office for a meeting of some sort, and I was telling them they should have more Métis history on their slate – at the time there was none," Vermette notes. "I also said something about needing more women graphic novelists, too. I believe my exact words were 'Women graphic novelists are cool. You should hire some of them.'"

Portage & Main Press editors quickly told Vermette that she should do something.

"I remember shaking my head emphatically and saying I was too busy," Vermette says. "But oh, I have always wanted to be cool! That, and I went home and the story of Echo started to slowly unfold for me. I saw her, clear as day, and she could only have come alive through the graphic form."

Vermette got to work, researching what for her was a new genre. She pitched them what would become the series *A Girl Called Echo*, which will include four books, the second of which, *Red River Resistance*, will be out this fall.

For this series, Portage & Main called on settler artist Scott B. Henderson, who has worked with David Alexander Robertson and Richard Van Camp on award-winning Indigenous comics.

Henderson takes the responsibility of working on Indigenous comics very seriously.

"A lot of my research is visually motivated," Henderson says. "I am often on a steep learning curve with stories like this, so I focus on photography and other art to guide me. It is a challenge sometimes to find the necessary reference, but with *A Girl Called Echo*, we've had historical and cultural experts, such as Lawrie Barkwell, to verify art and story, and to catch any edits, as we go along." 🌿

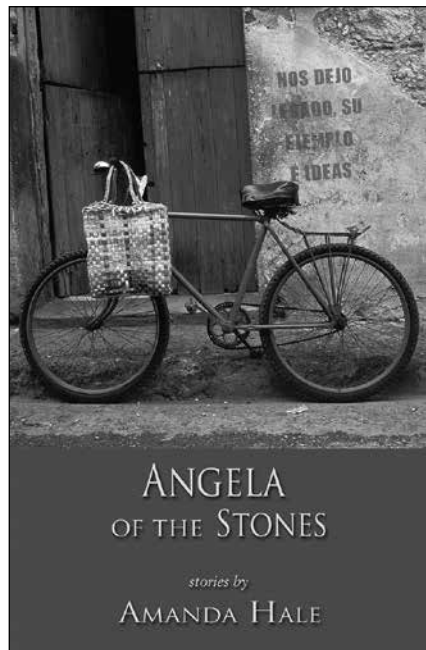


A highlight reel over 40 years long

Thistledown Press keeps pace with the evolving shape of Prairie literature

by Quentin Mills-Fenn

Thistledown Press was founded in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in 1975 to publish and promote the writing of both new and established Prairie writers. It's been producing books ever since, compiling an impressive backlist.



Publisher Al Forrie describes the origins of the press.

"It began as part of the small press movement in the 1970s and was principally involved with the production of experimental and avant-garde poetry," he says.

Its initial goal was also to publish first-book writers who had been ignored by the literary trade establishment.

Early writers included Lorna Uher (Crozier), Andrew Suknaski, and John V. Hicks, and the early programs consisted entirely of poetry. By the time it had joined the Literary Press Group in the early 1980s, its list had expanded to include fiction and poetry by writers from beyond the Prairies.

It now has a substantial list of western Canadian regional writers as well as representative writing from every province in Canada.

"Thistledown's recent history reflects this past," Forrie says, "as we



still maintain most of our original mandate that included publishing first books and publishing poetry while trying to emphasize both Saskatchewan and regional writing."

The original founders included the poet Glen Sorestad, and artist Neil Wagner, but by the time of incorporation included long-term editorial board members Paddy O'Rourke and Al Forrie.

Since 2000, the staff includes Forrie as publisher and his sister Jackie as managing editor, as well as a substantial list of contracted editors including Seán Virgo, Michael Kenyon, Susan Musgrave, R. P. MacIntyre, Harriet Richard, and John Lent.

Forrie's association with the press long precedes his time as its publisher.

"I was first invited to consider Thistledown involvement because of my background as offset and

letterpress printer," he says. While he had expertise as a printer, the decision was made to print and bind outside, rather than put together their own printing house.

In the early years that meant working with a printer who specialized in short press runs, Ray Hignell, grandson of Albert of Winnipeg's Hignell Book Printing. Forrie became the liaison for Thistledown for its production and eventually book design.



"Eventually Thistledown's original cast would retire or move on. Loving the work, I have remained," Forrie says.

As a publisher who has been at this work for more than 40 years, Forrie has had some choice in almost every book that was published, so when asked for highlights, he has a hard time choosing.

"Certainly there were authors we pursued that we were pretty damn happy to have on our list. But I don't know how you make a highlight list from our titles. Do I like Lorna Crozier's poetry or Patrick Lane's poetry better? We had many award-winning YA titles with writers like Martha Brooks and R. P. MacIntyre, as we did with our poetry and fiction as well," Forrie says.

"We have done unique book projects with poets like Alden Nowlan, and writers like Alistair McLeod. We have published our biennial New Leaf Series for decades, giving poets their first book. How would I rate the smiles on their faces as they heard the news they were being published?

"I feel the same way about the fall program inasmuch

"This program fulfills the goals we want to complete in an efficient and artistic way and is kind of a highlight reel in itself." FORRIE

as they are all highlights," he says. "This program fulfills the goals we want to complete in an efficient and artistic way and is kind of a highlight reel in itself."

Thistledown's fall list does indeed cover all the bases, including short fiction by first-book author James Trettwer, the winner of the John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award in 2016, and by Amanda Hale, whose linked stories are set in Baracoa, Cuba; poetry by Edmonton's Kelly Shepherd, who Forrie calls "one of the great new voices in Canadian poetry who is breaking new ground with this

book on urban ecology," and by Anna Marie Sewell, "a peace-seeking Indigenous warrior who reflects on being a woman"; and finally a new young adult novel by B.C. writer Barry McDivitt, who has published two previous YA books with Thistledown.

"Thistledown's original focus on Canadian Prairie literature in a regional context has indeed changed as the decades changed," Forrie says.

"More and more the emphasis on regional Prairie landscapes, cultural work, colonial relationships, and ancestral vision has been usurped by the writing urgency of women's perspectives, the emergence of Aboriginal voices, and writing that includes diverse representations of ethnicity. While Thistledown still honours the consciousness of 'Prairie' as culture, the construct of a Prairie literature has evolved into something considerably more complex." 🌿

POETRY

FOR THE CHANGING MOON

Anna Marie Sewell

This collection by Edmonton's fourth poet laureate includes work visually designed for the page, and work composed to be chanted, sung, and spoken, encouraging readers to enter the poems' spells and experience them as a record of the shifting times.

(Thistledown Press, \$20.00 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-168-6)

INSOMNIA BIRD

Kelly Shepherd

These poems, shifting between short lyric pieces and found text, are a cartography and a geography of Edmonton, exploring how sleep, city, and nature hold magic, with the magpie serving as both protagonist and muse.

(Thistledown Press, \$20.00 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-169-3)

SHORT FICTION

ANGELA OF THE STONES

Amanda Hale

These stories are connected by place, the town of Baracoa in Cuba, and by overlapping characters, who struggle with political change while held by the past, and whose dreams are broken and restored like the buildings around them.

(Thistledown Press, \$19.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-165-5)

THORN-FIELD

James Trettwer

Small-town life in fictional Liverwood is far from idyllic in these linked short stories that explore how the potash mine affects everything the people do, exposing the vulnerability, corruption, and exploitation behind human affairs.

(Thistledown Press, \$19.95 pb, 308 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-170-9)

YOUNG ADULT

RANK 6: FIRESTORM

Barry McDivitt

Emily, who has struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts, races into the danger of a Rank 6 fire, an inferno swirling with fireballs and temperatures as high as 1000 degrees Celsius, to save a panic-stricken dog. Faced with imminent death, this teenager realizes she really does want to live.

(Thistledown Press, \$15.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77187-168-6)

Suffragette's memoir expands with modern analysis

Inherited narrative is complemented by academic additions and colonial context

by Paula E. Kirman

FROM SUFFRAGETTE TO HOMESTEADER:

Exploring British and Canadian Colonial Histories and Women's Politics through Memoir

Edited by Emily van der Meulen

Fernwood Publishing
(fernwoodpublishing.ca)

\$20.00 pb, 196 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77363-126-4

Ethel Marie Sentance wrote a memoir for her husband in 1952 and gave it to him as a present for their 40th wedding anniversary that year. But her personal story is reaching far beyond her family.

Emily van der Meulen, Ethel's great-granddaughter, publishes this memoir as the heart of the book *From Suffragette to Homesteader: Exploring British and Canadian Colonial Histories and Women's Politics through Memoir*, presenting a first-person account of women's activism in early 20th-century England and Canada.

Born in England in 1880, Ethel was involved in the suffrage movement in her mid-20s, participating in meetings and rallies, selling suffrage newspapers, and serving time in jail for breaking a window at a protest.

"Ethel was highly critical of women's social and political subjugation, and was committed to advancing women's rights through the vote. Ethel's fiancé Clarence

was also a supporter of women's enfranchisement, and joined the Men's League for Women's Suffrage," says van der Meulen, who is an associate professor in the Department of Criminology at Ryerson University.

Ethel and Clarence eventually married and moved to a small log cabin Clarence had built near Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, where they raised four children.

Ethel and Clarence were also involved in various rural organizing activities, including among other things establishing a school district, constructing and installing the first telephone lines, and helping develop a local library.

They eventually left the homestead to live in a number of small Saskatchewan towns as part of Clarence's work with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.

In addition to Ethel's memoir, the book has several chapters in which leading scholars of women's history, such as June Purvis, Sumita Mukherjee, and Sandra Rollings-Magnusson, analyze aspects of Ethel's life narrative.

The chapter authors examine "some of the key events and activities that she recounts while also grounding their analyses in the larger social and political context of the time," van der Meulen explains.

"Importantly, chapter authors also explore topics that Ethel does not discuss, most notably histories

of colonialism and imperialism, but which are central for developing a more fulsome understanding of gendered experiences and women's histories."

Chapter topics include the struggle of the suffragettes in Edwardian Britain, issues of race in the British suffrage movement, rethinking suffrage in the context of settler colonialism

in Canada, and the daily lives of women on Saskatchewan's homesteads.

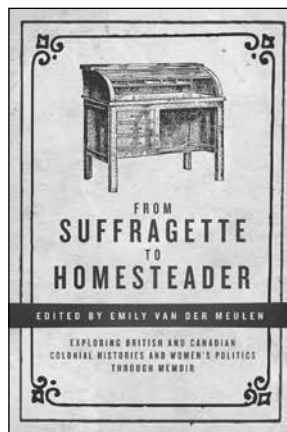
While contributors solicited for a collection often have full leeway in terms of content, van der Meulen very specifically asked the writers to engage with the memoir "either by examining some of the topics that Ethel wrote about or by broadening the memoir's scope and

analyzing aspects of the larger milieu that she did not explore."

In the light of contemporary feminism, this collection shows how far society has come – and that there is still a ways to go.

"Ethel was committed to improving women's social circumstances, whether that be through direct action and the suffrage movement, or within her own family and local communities," van der Meulen says.

"She spent much of her life working toward gendered and social justice. All these years later, we still have a long way to go, and feminist activism is as important now as it was in her time." 🌿



Community in the midst of poverty on Alberta Avenue

Essays on revitalization, safety, and sticking it out in a gritty neighbourhood

by Linda Alberta

LITTLE YELLOW HOUSE:

Finding Community in a Changing Neighbourhood

Carissa Halton

Gutteridge Books-University of Alberta Press

(uap.ualberta.ca)

\$24.99 pb, 176 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77212-375-3

If the oldest streets in Edmonton could tell their stories, what would they say? While living in a 150-year-old neighbourhood prior to its revitalization, Carissa Halton examines life on gritty Alberta Avenue with an array of insightful stories in her first book, *Little Yellow House: Finding Community in a Changing Neighbourhood*.

In these stark and endearing personal essays, the author celebrates her life and lives fearlessly and fully with three children and a husband, despite a dystopian backdrop.

Halton writes with humour, empathy, and spiritual maturity, and she doesn't judge the inner city world outside her yellow house. Instead, the author says she wrote her book to explain why she lives where she lives.

"A lot of acquaintances and friends asked, 'Why would you move there?' and 'Oh, you will move when you have kids,' " Halton says. "Then they said, 'Oh, you will move when your kids go to school.' Well, we didn't move, and then people stopped suggesting. So, I wrote the book in response to those folks."

Halton adds that she also wanted to address another pressing issue: how do we revitalize our older communities yet keep the things we love about them – their diversity and their history that speaks to a different time?

Throughout her book, Halton introduces us to a diverse cast of characters.



"I had been in the community for 10 years, so I know lots of people and I've heard lots of snippets of stories, so I published the ones I was curious about. I revisited those stories and then I wanted to know more about the cat rescuer and how did that guy die and what happened to this person? I think there is a story database in my brain," Halton says.

One important story in the life of Alberta Avenue is its transition to a safer place. Halton stresses that you need individuals willing to invest time and energy into building the relationships that spark change. Financial resources and a flexible police force help.

"The local authorities got creative about how to shut drug houses down; they went in with health officials and said, 'Oh there are mice!' and they were shutting these places down. By shutting down this drug house that created fear around the whole block, people came out of their houses, literally. They started baking each other cookies. Safety is vital to a healthy neighbourhood."

Halton affirms that living on Alberta Avenue becomes a positive experience when people set aside their biases because there is always something to learn. For starters, her family met people from all walks of life they never would have met and this challenged them to think about social issues.

"I think the biggest thing is that my kids saw some of the social issues associated with poverty. I believe it made them more compassionate, more empathetic, and I think it helps them articulate things they are grateful for," she says.

"But no matter where you live, you can find beauty, because happiness is a perspective." 🌿

"...people came out of their houses, literally. They started baking each other cookies. Safety is vital to a healthy neighbourhood."

HALTON



Speaking up for elders who parent their grandchildren

Second round of raising kids has many challenges and benefits

by Linda Alberta

RAISING GRANDKIDS: *Inside Skipped-Generation Families*

Gary Garrison

University of Regina Press (uofrpress.ca)

\$19.95 pb, 280 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88977-554-1

Edmonton author Gary Garrison identifies with his new book because it echoes his own life circumstance.

From an inside vantage point, Garrison studies the “skipped-generation” family phenomenon, which is grandparents raising their children’s children because the parents are unable to due to addiction, mental or physical illness, poverty, death, or imprisonment. With two active grandkids at home, 67-year-old Garrison writes and speaks passionately about this topic.

According to the author, there are reasons why grandparent caregivers can’t speak up for themselves, including the risk of alienating their children and the very real possibility of losing any government support. Garrison decided to offer his voice and write *Raising Grandkids: Inside Skipped-Generation Families* for these caregivers.

“People in our stage of life have less energy, we live on fixed incomes, and our health becomes a greater concern, so there are many reasons why we don’t speak up for ourselves. With this book I saw an opportunity to be the voice for the people who can’t speak up. Because raising kids is isolating, it saps your energy, eliminates your social life, and you need to manage your energy and your time,” Garrison says.

But there are also benefits to parenting again later in life.

“My grandchildren enriched my life by giving me more energy and challenging me

to find energy within myself, not just to be young again but to participate in activities with them, like riding a bike or kicking a soccer ball around. I’ve talked to school teachers, and it is common for them to be energized being around all this energy.”

Packed with resources, statistics, strategies, and a series of oral histories, *Raising Grandkids* has a vital educational thread. One important theme explored is foster care and adoption. As unsung heroes, grandparents often keep children out of foster care.

“Foster homes have kept children for brief periods of time, but they bounce from home to home. And if somebody abandons you once, it becomes part of your nature to think, ‘Will these people abandon me too?’” Garrison says.

“So grandparents provide children with a safe place to be and a place where they know they are loved and where they can safeguard the continuity of their lives that have been disrupted at an early age. When a parent runs away or is lost to addiction, that is profoundly unsettling to a child.”

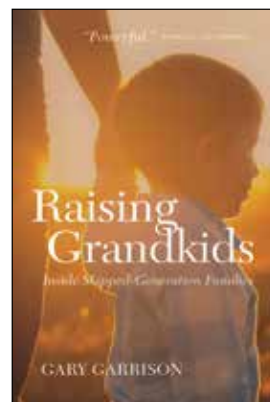
Gathering oral histories to focus on different issues for each chapter, Garrison travelled to Ontario where he met 30 grandparents at a CANGRANDS summer camp for grandparent caregivers. He told interviewees that he was in the same boat they were, and he wanted to write about it. In the end he added new friends to new stories.

Garrison has one final message for fellow grandparent caregivers because he believes the work they do is the most important work we do as human beings.

“I want grandparents to know they are valued. They have nothing to be ashamed of and plenty to be proud of. If I could, I’d give them all gold medals. Because people who do this despite all the obstacles and challenges deserve to be acknowledged as heroes.”



“I want grandparents to know they are valued. They have nothing to be ashamed of and plenty to be proud of.” GARRISON



Sailing off to find herself

Author starts life over with an adventure at sea

by Laura Kupcis

SEA OVER BOW:

A North Atlantic Crossing

Linda Kenyon

Signature Editions

(signature-editions.com)

\$19.95 pb, 240 pages

ISBN: 978-1-773240-40-4

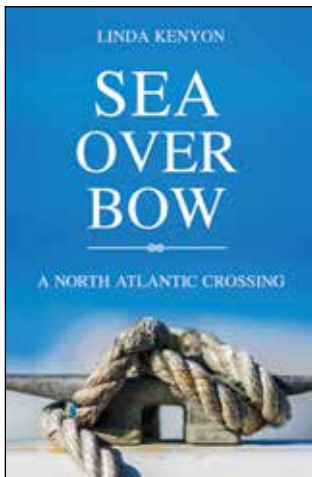
Imagine, just for a moment, selling all of your possessions, including your home and your car, leaving everything and everyone you know behind, and setting off to sail around the world.

This is exactly what Linda Kenyon did. Her marriage of more than 25 years had ended – suddenly – and she found herself living alone in a Waterloo condo with her dog and her books.

“Then I met a sailor, and although I had vowed never to put myself in the way of another broken heart, I was restless and lonely,” Kenyon says. “My life had begun to feel too small.

“I don’t know if it was courage or foolishness, but I thought: What do I have to lose?”

Sea Over Bow: A North Atlantic Crossing is not just another story about sailing around the world – though, yes, Kenyon has travelled across the ocean on a 43-foot steel sailboat.



It is not just another love story; though, yes, Kenyon is unabashedly happy and in love.

It is so much more.

It is a story of courage, of second chances, of taking the leap, and of finding one’s true home. It is a story chock full of reasons to never ever settle.

Kenyon grew up in a family pinched by poverty, with a mother who was terrified of so many things – and who instilled that fear in her daughters.

Kenyon married young, and spent much of her adult life as a farm wife. Then her marriage ended and she found herself alone. She was not a person who took risks; she was not the kind of person who would sell off everything to sail across the ocean. Or was she?

“I finally became my real self, the person I was meant to be,” Kenyon says.

Suddenly life was full of happiness and great adventures. There was an 18-hour gale with 40-knot winds right before making landfall in the Azores. There were weeks spent out in the open water, and time spent at anchor in quiet harbours experiencing the local culture.

There was the peace that came from the hours on night watch – under the large sky with only the stars above.

“There is something about the solitude, and all I am doing is watching the sails and watching the



“I felt so small out there, but big at the same time. I felt like I was exactly in the right place, like I was a part of the universe.” KENYON

water and thinking,” Kenyon says of her favourite part of sailing.

“I felt so small out there, but big at the same time. I felt like I was exactly in the right place, like I was a part of the universe. It was incredibly beautiful. You’re just there and you’re just present.”

The journey had such a profound effect on her life that she wanted to write about it; she wanted to share how worthwhile it was to find the courage to start again – to take a chance.

“Don’t be afraid to start again,” Kenyon advises. “The temptation in life is to be safe and to be careful and to settle for too little and that’s what most people do. Just don’t. Don’t settle for too little.

“Find the courage and just start again – you won’t believe where it can take you.”

Revisiting the high times of cycling history

Meet the female pioneers of early Victorian high-wheel racing

by Paula E. Kirman

MUSCLE ON WHEELS:

Louise Armaindo and the High-Wheel Racers of Nineteenth-Century America

M. Ann Hall

McGill-Queen's University Press (mqup.ca)

\$34.95 hc, 240 pages

with b/w images throughout, bibliography

ISBN: 978-0-7735-5465-8

In today's world, high-wheel bicycles are a thing of the past, immortalized in silent movies and museums. However, in the latter 1800s, they were all the rage and ridden competitively.

Even though it was the standard bicycle of the day, a misconception emerged due to its height that women could not ride them for reasons of Victorian dress and manners.

In *Muscle on Wheels: Louise Armaindo and the High-Wheel Racers of Nineteenth-Century America*, M. Ann Hall tells the story of women's high-wheel racing in North America in the 1880s and early 1890s, particularly focusing on Louise Armaindo, one of Canada's first female professional athletes.

The project originated through Hall's desire to learn more about Armaindo.

"I was frustrated by the inaccurate information about Armaindo, especially on the web. Moreover, historians of women's sport have only recently paid attention to working-class women's sport, especially in the 19th century," explains Hall, who is professor emerita in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

As a sport historian, Hall knew that "the most attention is paid to the middle- and upper-class women who took up cycling in the mid-to-late 1880s with the advent of the chain-driven safety bicycle, made more comfortable with the invention of pneumatic tires."

She continues, "Prior to this time, women rode tricycles, but little mention is made of those who rode and raced the high-wheel. In fact, cycling historians often characterize the high-wheel era as masculinized and the safety era as feminized. True, it was mostly middle- and upper-class young men who rode the high-wheel for sport and recreation, and certainly bourgeois women did not. However, this masculine/feminine characterization ignores obvious class divisions and renders working women's incredible athletic activity in the high-wheel era invisible."

While tracking Louise Armaindo throughout the last two decades of the 19th century, Hall was led to examine the high-wheel era (late 1870s to early 1890s) more closely and discovered about 20 women in the United States who were professional high-wheel racers.

"For much of her career Louise raced against men, and she did so successfully, especially if given a handicap or head start. As more women entered the sport in the late 1880s, they challenged Louise, by then older and past her prime, but still capable of winning. They performed before large audiences and earned a living, precarious as it was, through their athleticism," Hall says.

Hall hopes that *Muscle on Wheels* will change the perceptions readers may have about women's athletic activity in North America in the early Victorian era. As well, "from the perspective of women's cycling history, I hope that Louise Armaindo and the other women high-wheel racers will be recognized as true pioneers," she says.

A cyclist since childhood, Hall admits she has never attempted to ride a high-wheel bike.

"Although still fit and athletic," she says, "I am now 76 so I doubt it's a good idea to try riding a high-wheel. I think it might be possible to get up on it safely, and to ride it, but it's the coming down that worries me!"



MORE NON-FICTION

ASSEMBLING UNITY: INDIGENOUS POLITICS, GENDER, AND THE UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Sarah A. Nickel

Nickel draws on oral interviews, newspaper articles, government documents, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs records in this history of UBCIC to expose the gendered nature of political work, as well as the economic and emotional sacrifices that activists make.

(UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 224 pages, with photos, map, tables, ISBN: 978-0-7748-3798-9)

CALGARY THROUGH THE EYES OF WRITERS

Shaun Hunter

Hunter gives readers a tour of Calgary through excerpts from over 150 novels, stories, poems, and essays that pay tribute to its people and land, explore its past, and question its mythologies, revealing the complexities behind the stereotypes.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$30.00 hc, 208 pages, maps, index, ISBN: 978-1-77160-273-0)

CANADA'S LABOUR MARKET TRAINING SYSTEM

Bob Barnetson

This introductory textbook provides students of Canada's division of labour with general information about the main facets of labour-market training – skills development, post-secondary and community education, and workplace training – and encourages them to think critically about the relationship between training systems and the ideologies that support them.

(Athabasca University Press, \$29.9 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-241-1)

CHERISHED FORTUNE: MAKE YOUR WEALTH YOUR BUSINESS

Andrew Allentuck and Benoit Poliquin

This introduction to the critical skills needed to succeed as an investor advises novice investors to manage their portfolios by thinking like a small-business owner, controlling risk and building knowledge.

(Dundurn Press, \$26.00 pb, 200 pages, ISBN: 978-1-45974-240-6)

CONNECTIONIST REPRESENTATIONS OF TONAL MUSIC: DISCOVERING MUSICAL PATTERNS BY INTERPRETING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS

Michael R. W. Dawson

In this book, cognitive scientist Dawson introduces readers to the use of artificial neural networks in the study of music through numerous case studies and research findings that address problems related to identifying scales and keys, classifying musical chords, and learning jazz chord progressions.

(Athabasca University Press, \$41.95 pb, 312 pages, with figures, tables, references, index, ISBN: 978-1-77199-220-6)

CONTEMPORARY INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CANADA

Edited by Janine Brodie

The nine essays in this book look at the challenge of social inequality from the perspectives of race, youth, precarious workers, Indigenous Peoples, and the LGBTQ community, stressing the uneven and selective application of social justice.

(University of Toronto Press, 224 pages, \$70.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4426-3409-1; \$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4426-3408-4)

THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR SASKATCHEWAN: THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

David Mittelstadt

This history of Saskatchewan's highest court places it in the context of Canadian law and shows how the court contributed to the province's legal, political, and social development. The book includes a biography of each judge who ever sat on the court and relates some of the touchstone legal decisions.

(University of Regina Press, \$59.95 hc, 608 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-0-88977-569-5)

THE CREATION OF iGISELLE: CLASSICAL BALLET MEETS CONTEMPORARY VIDEO GAMES

Edited by Nora Foster Stovel

The eight chapters of this book chronicle the origin, development, and fruition of *iGiselle*, a video game prototype that combines Romantic ballet and artificial intelligence, revising the tragic narrative

of the 1841 ballet *Giselle* to empower the heroine for possible "feminine endings." (University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 232 pages, with b/w images, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-381-4)

CZECH REFUGEES IN COLD WAR CANADA

Jan Raska

Raska uses oral histories, government files, ethnic newspapers, and community archives to reveal how more than 36,000 predominantly political refugees from Czechoslovakia secured admission as desirable immigrants and navigated social and political norms in Cold War Canada. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 320 pages, with b/w photos, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-827-6)

A DIGITAL BUNDLE: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ONLINE

Jennifer Wemigwans

By redefining online Indigenous Knowledges as "digital bundles," Wemigwans grounds online projects within Indigenous traditional paradigms, elevating both cultural protocol and responsibilities. (University of Regina Press, \$29.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-551-0)

ENTRYWAYS TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE: ACCUSATION AND CRIMINALIZATION IN CANADA

Edited by George Pavlich and Matthew P. Unger

This book analyzes the societal forces that criminalize certain individuals and explores the accusatory processes that place them in contact with the law, from social, historical, cultural, and political perspectives. (University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 256 pages, with tables, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-336-4)

ENVIRONMENT IN THE COURTROOM

Edited by Alan E. Ingleson

Providing extensive insight into Canadian environmental law, this collection covers key environmental concepts, prosecutions, sentencing and offences, evidentiary

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

issues in environmental processes and hearings, and more.
(University of Calgary Press, \$64.99 pb, 752 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55238-985-0)

**FEMALE DOCTORS IN CANADA:
EXPERIENCE AND CULTURE**

Edited by Earle H. Waugh, Shirley Schipper, and Shelley Ross

This accessible collection of articles by experienced physicians and researchers explores how systems, practices, and individuals must change as medicine becomes an increasingly female-dominated profession, looking at issues such as work hours, caregiving, and doctor-patient relationships.
(University of Toronto Press, 224 pages, \$65.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0425-0; \$29.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2322-0)

**FEMINIST PRAXIS REVISITED: CRITICAL
REFLECTIONS ON UNIVERSITY-
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Edited by Amber Dean, Jennifer L. Johnson, and Susanne Luhmann

In this collection, women's and gender studies practitioners reflect on how the field is trying to integrate activism and social change with community-based learning in post-secondary institutions, in light of current pressure to focus on student employability.
(Wilfrid Laurier University Press, \$39.99 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77112-377-8)

**FISH WARS AND TROUT TRAVESTIES: SAVING
SOUTHERN ALBERTA'S COLDWATER
STREAMS IN THE 1920s**

George Colpitts

Rather than using a top-down approach to environmental protection, in the 1920s, southern Alberta townspeople and civic leaders, while often holding conflicting perspectives, led a grassroots movement toward conservation of the fish in their local rivers and streams.
(Athabasca University Press, \$24.99 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927356-71-5)

**THE FLYING ZOO: BIRDS, PARASITES,
AND THE WORLD THEY SHARE**

Michael Stock

This enthusiastic zoological tribute to birds and the parasites that live in and on

them tells of fleas, lice, ticks, and flukes, and their interdependency with host birds from the Galápagos Islands to our backyards.

(University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 296 pages, with line drawings, graphics, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-374-6)

**GLOBAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH: RECONCILING
THE PAST, ENGAGING THE PRESENT,
ANIMATING THE FUTURE**

Edited by Robert Henry, Amanda Lavalley, Nancy Van Styvendale, and Robert Alexander Innes

Building on Indigenous knowledge systems of health and critical decolonial theories, the contributors explore issues of Indigenous health within four themes: ethics and history, environmental and ecological health, impacts of colonial violence on kinship, and Indigenous knowledge and health activism.
(University of Arizona Press, \$60.00 hc, 328 pages, with b/w illustrations, tables, ISBN: 978-0-8165-3806-5)

**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION IN
CANADA: ACCESS AND STEWARDSHIP**

Edited by Amanda Wakaruk and Sam-Chin Li

Practitioners from across the country draw on decades of experience to offer a broad survey of history, procedures, and emerging issues in the area of the stewardship of public access to government information, particularly the challenges posed by the transition from print to digital access.
(University of Alberta Press, \$80.00 pb, 360 pages, with b/w images, appendices, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-406-4)

THE HOMESTEADERS

Sandra Rollings-Magnusson

Based on a collection of interviews conducted in the 1950s, this book covers the whole settler experience, beginning in what is now Saskatchewan in 1867 and continuing through the immigration boom preceding the First World War.
(University of Regina Press, \$49.95 pb, 275 pages, with 175 duotone images, ISBN: 978-0-88977-515-2)

**IMAGINING CHILD WELFARE IN THE
SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION: VOICES
FROM THE PRAIRIES**

Edited by Dorothy Badry, H. Monty Montgomery, Daniel Kikulwe, Marlyn Bennett, and Don Fuchs

Drawing on the expertise of Indigenous scholars and researchers, this book examines child welfare practices related to kinship care, FASD, homelessness, aging out of the system, and transitions for rural youth leaving care.
(University of Regina Press, \$39.95 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-575-6)

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION: NEW
DIRECTIONS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE**

Edited by Huia Tomlins-Jahnke, Sandra Styres, Spencer Lilley, and Dawn Zinga
Leading scholars in Indigenous education from North America and the Pacific Islands explore Indigenous education from theoretical and applied perspectives, inviting readers to embrace new ways of schooling, ways that disentangle it from colonial relations and contested spaces.
(University of Alberta Press, \$45.99 pb, 480 pages, with tables, diagrams, appendix, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-414-9)

**JACKSPEAK OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN
NAVY: A GLOSSARY OF NAVAL TERMINOLOGY**
Mark Nelson

This second edition is newly revised and expanded, with over 2500 terms included, colourful terms such as *box kickers* and *gut robbers*, *channel fever* and *homeward bounders*.
(Dundurn Press, \$19.99 pb, 184 pages, ISBN: 978-1-45974-279-6)

**KAYANERENKÓ:WA: THE
GREAT LAW OF PEACE**

Kayanesenh Paul Williams

When the five nations that would become the Haudenosaunee (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca) established Kayanerenkó, the Great Law of Peace, they not only solved generations-long conflicts, but also shaped a system of law and government that remains in place

today, and is a viable alternative to Euro-American systems of law.

(University of Manitoba Press, 480 pages, with bibliography, index, maps, \$74.95 hc, ISBN: 978-0-88755-193-2; \$35.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-88755-821-4)

LEARNING TO DIE

Robert Bringhurst and Jan Zwicky

Two leading intellectuals weigh in on the death of the planet versus the death of the individual. Zwicky argues that awareness and humility are needed to face both; Bringhurst urges readers to tune their minds to the wild to heal the world.

(University of Regina Press, \$19.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-563-3)

THE LITERARY HISTORY OF SASKATCHEWAN: VOLUME 3 – ADVANCES

David Carpenter

This volume focuses on Regina's literary culture and the coming generation of younger writers, while continuing to examine the best work from Saskatchewan, work that moves well beyond the borders of the province. (Coteau Books, \$29.95 pb, 292 pages, ISBN: 978-55050-954-0)

POLISH WAR VETERANS IN ALBERTA: THE LAST FOUR STORIES

Aldona Jaworska

This work of social history, through the first-hand stories of four veterans, examines how Polish veterans displaced by the Second World War and resettled in Alberta experienced their new country. (University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 248 pages, with b/w photos, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-373-9)

POOR NO MORE: THE BASIC INCOME PATH TO A HEALTHIER, WEALTHIER SOCIETY

Evelyn L. Forget

Forget argues that a basic income would lead to a stronger labour market, a more educated society, and improved mental and physical health for all, discussing how it could be implemented and how it will affect a variety of people such as single parents and people with disabilities. (Lorimer, \$24.95 pb, 298 pages, with charts, graphs, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1350-4)

POSSESSIONS: THEIR ROLE IN ANGER, GREED, ENVY, JEALOUSY AND DEATH

Boris W. Kishchuk

Kishchuk examines and reflects on how possession, in its various forms, affects people and society, particularly in negative ways, looking at historical examples.

(DriverWorks Ink, \$19.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-92757042-5)

THE PUBLIC SERVANT'S GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

Alex Marland and Jared J. Wesley

This concise primer on the inner workings of government in Canada is a useful reference guide for students, scholars, new public servants, or anyone curious about how government works, connecting political science and public administration to the real-world practice of government. (University of Toronto Press, 112 pages, \$44.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-9477-0; \$19.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-9476-3)

QUENCHING THE DRAGON: THE CANADA-CHINA WATER CRISIS

Robert William Sandford

In this latest RMB Manifesto, Sandford takes readers to China to show the depth of the bottled-water trade in China and the shortsightedness of Canada in exporting water as an agricultural product to China, providing new perspectives on global hydrology and sustainability. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$16.00 hc, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-293-8)

RECONSIDERING CONFEDERATION: CANADA'S FOUNDING DEBATES, 1864–1999

Edited by Daniel Heidt

In this collection, leading historians explore how the provinces, territories, and Treaty Areas became the political frameworks Canadians know today, tracing the paths that each province and territory took on its way to Confederation. (University of Calgary Press, \$34.99 pb, 416 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-015-3)

RESURGENCE AND RECONCILIATION: INDIGENOUS-SETTLER RELATIONS AND EARTH TEACHINGS

Edited by Michael Asch, John Borrows, and James Tully

Critically and constructively analyzing the two schools of thought in

Indigenous-Settler relations – resurgence, which refers to practices of Indigenous self-determination and cultural renewal, and reconciliation, which refers to practices such as treaty negotiations – this multidisciplinary book connects both discourses to the ecosystem dynamics that animate the living earth.

(University of Toronto Press, 336 pages, \$75.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0433-5; \$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2327-5)

THE SECRET MARATHON: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH SPORT

Martin Parnell

In 2016, Parnell ran a marathon in Afghanistan to fight for women's rights and gender equality, inspired by Afghanistan's first female marathon runner Zainab, after reading about her while recovering from a life-threatening blood clot on his brain.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-299-0)

SELF-DETERMINED STORIES: THE INDIGENOUS REINVENTION OF YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Mandy Suhr-Sytsma

This ground-breaking book reads Indigenous-authored YA – by authors such as Sherman Alexie, Jeannette Armstrong, and Drew Hayden Taylor – not only as an important challenge to stereotypes but also as a rich resource for theorizing Indigenous sovereignty in the contemporary era.

(Michigan State University Press, \$29.95 pb, 214 pages, ISBN: 978-1-61186-298-0)

STARVING UKRAINE: THE HOLODOMOR AND CANADA'S RESPONSE

Serge Cipko

This account of the catastrophic famine in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933, the Holodomor, reveals how, despite the denials of the Soviet government, Canadians came to learn about it from many, often contradictory, sources. (University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 400 pages, with photos, map, ISBN: 978-0-88977-560-2)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

THE STORIES WERE NOT TOLD: CANADA'S FIRST WORLD WAR INTERNMENT CAMPS
Sandra Semchuk

Through photography, cultural theory, and personal testimony, this book presents the story of the imprisonment of mostly Ukrainian immigrants in Canada, labelled "enemy aliens," during the period from 1914 to 1920.

(University of Alberta Press, \$34.99 pb, 352 pages, full-colour throughout, with photos, afterword, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-378-4)

STRUCTURES OF INDIFFERENCE: AN INDIGENOUS LIFE AND DEATH IN A CANADIAN CITY

Mary Jane Logan McCallum and Adele Perry

The story of Brian Sinclair – how he was left untreated and unattended to in a Winnipeg emergency room, and ultimately died from an easily treatable infection – illustrates the ongoing history of colonialism, and the racism and

systemic discrimination that underlie Canadian health and legal systems.
(University of Manitoba Press, \$17.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-835-1)

THE THUNDERBIRD, THE QUESNEL & THE SEA
Bev Lundahl

Lundahl looks beyond her father's history in the Royal Canadian Navy to research the story of a First Nations carving used as a mascot on the *HMCS Quesnel* during the Second World War, seeking answers to questions about how it came to be used in that way and what happened to it after the war.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-35-2)

TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ACROSS THE WORLD'S LONGEST BORDER

Edited by Stephen Brooks and Andrea Olive
The contributors to this book examine the state of the existing transboundary relationship between Canada and the United States, including the

governance structures and processes, the environmental impacts and adequacy of these structures and processes, and the opportunities and obstacles that exist for reform and improved outcomes.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$39.95 pb, 260 pages, with b/w photos, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-829-0)


TRANSFORMING CONVERSATIONS: FEMINISM AND EDUCATION IN CANADA SINCE 1970

Edited by Dawn Wallin and Janice Wallace

In 1970, the *Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women* was released, listing education as one of nine public policy areas that must be addressed. This collection of essays explores how the RCSW has affected teaching, educational leadership, and feminist discourses, acknowledging voices that have been marginalized.

(McGill-Queen's University Press, 288 pages, \$120.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-7735-5356-9; \$39.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-7735-5357-6)

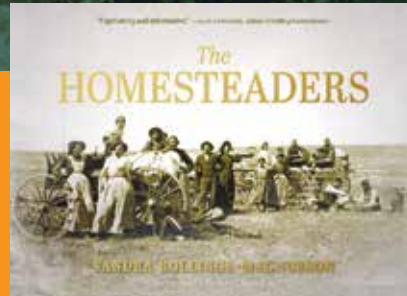
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HOME ON THE PLAINS

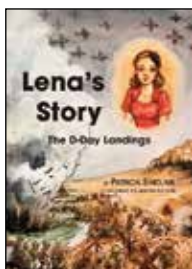
The Homesteaders by Sandra Rollings-Magnusson, foreword by Nadine Charabin

"[S]ometimes tragic, often humorous, always fascinating. The determination, courage and resilience of homesteaders is well documented in this captivating and informative book, with numerous archival photographs." —Alan Anderson, Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan



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Educational



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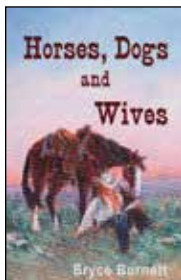


Funny



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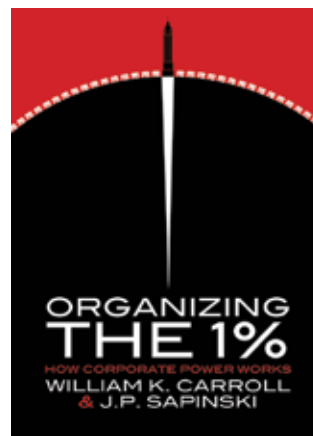


IKWE

Honouring Women, Life Givers, and Water Protectors
by Jackie Traverse

*"Jackie's art, her book, and her life fundamentally contribute to the
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understand one another moving toward reconciliation in Canada."*

— Nahanni Fontaine, NDP MLA for St. Johns,
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba



Organizing the 1%

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Carroll and Sapinski illustrate the various ways
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THE TRANS GENERATION: HOW TRANS KIDS (AND THEIR PARENTS) ARE CREATING A GENDER REVOLUTION

Ann Travers

Travers offers a look into what it is like to grow up as a transgender child by illuminating their day-to-day realities and focusing on how they make their voices heard, at home, in school, and in the courts. (University of Regina Press, \$24.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-578-7)

THE TRUE FACE OF SIR ISAAC BROCK

Guy St-Denis

In the time since his death at the battle of Queenston Heights in the War of 1812, Brock's likeness has been lost in a confusing array of portraits. St-Denis situates these portraits within an emerging English Canadian imperial nationalism that sought a heroic past, and separates fact from fiction to discover Brock's true face. (University of Calgary Press, \$34.99 pb, 288 pages, with illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77385-020-7)

WATER RITES: REIMAGINING WATER IN THE WEST

Edited by Jim Ellis

This stunningly designed interdisciplinary book brings together artists, activists, conservation groups, and scholars to explore key water-related issues with a focus on environmental and Indigenous perspectives, showing how water is not only a necessary resource to life, but also a source of artistic inspiration and part of our collective consciousness. (University of Calgary Press, \$29.99 pb, 168 pages, with full-colour illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-55238-997-3)

WORK YOUR CAREER: GET WHAT YOU WANT FROM YOUR SOCIAL SCIENCES OR HUMANITIES PHD

Loleen Berdahl and Jonathan Malloy

This book encourages students to consider both academic and non-academic career options from the beginning of their studies and to prepare for both concurrently, providing practical advice to Canadian social sciences and humanities

students for developing skills useful to both markets.

(University of Toronto Press, 256 pages, \$65.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-9427-5; \$27.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-9426-8)

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

ALBERTA BOOK

Photographs by George Webber, Text by Fred Stenson and Rosemary Griebel

Webber's latest book of photographs, selected from an archive of work spanning nearly 40 years, focuses on the vernacular architecture, abandoned townscapes, and fading commercial signage from 1950s and 1960s rural Alberta. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$40.00 hc, 320 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-297-6)

BIRD BRAINS: THE INTELLIGENCE OF CROWS, RAVENS, MAGPIES, AND JAYS

Candace Savage

This revised edition with a new introduction presents the members of the particularly intelligent corvid family and their ingenuity, creativity, and powers of abstraction and memory in a collection of full-colour, close-up photographs by some of the world's best wildlife photographers. (Greystone Books, \$29.95 pb, 148 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77164-425-9)

IKWE: HONOURING WOMEN – LIFE GIVERS, WATER PROTECTORS

Jackie Traverse

Inspired by the strength and power of the women at Standing Rock, Anishinaabe artist Traverse has created a new colouring book that features stunning images celebrating the spiritual and ceremonial aspects of women and their important role as protectors of the water. (Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$20.00 pb, 50 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-073-1)

MORE ABANDONED MANITOBA: RIVERS, RAILS AND RUINS

Gordon Goldsborough

Exploring everything from abandoned quarries to dance halls to hospitals, Goldsborough connects our present with the architecture of our past in

this follow-up to his successful book *Abandoned Manitoba*.

(Great Plains Publications, \$35.00 pb, 264 pages, with full-colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77337-002-6)

NORTHERN LIGHT: THE ARCTIC AND SUBARCTIC PHOTOGRAPHY OF DAVE BROSHA

Dave Brosha

Brosha's work covers a wide spectrum of photographic genres, and this collection features stunning photographs taken in Greenland, Iceland, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, the Tomgats of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Yukon.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$50.00 hc, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-289-1)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

THE ÄLTESTER: HERMAN D. W. FRIESEN, A MENNONITE LEADER IN CHANGING TIMES

Bruce L. Guenther

This biography reveals the life of a man who, in the 1960s, attempted to modernize the Old Colony Mennonite community in Saskatchewan, so that they could adapt to changes taking place rather than migrate to Mexico, Central America, or elsewhere, as previous groups had.

(University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 320 pages, with appendices, maps, b/w images, ISBN: 978-0-88977-572-5)

BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE: THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY

Andrea Warner

Music critic Warner draws on more than 60 hours of exclusive interviews to create this intimate look at the singer-songwriter and activist's life from her beginnings in Saskatchewan and her experience as an adoptee through her rise to fame in the 1960s to her ongoing life of advocating for Indigenous rights and creating innovative art and music.

(Greystone Books, \$36.95 hc, 288 pages, with colour photo insert, ISBN: 978-1-77164-358-0)

THE EMPEROR'S ORPHANS

Sally Ito

As a Japanese-Canadian child growing up in the suburbs of Edmonton, Ito lived on a cultural island. As an adult, she goes to

Japan to investigate the displacement that members of her family suffered during the Second World War when they were “repatriated” from Canada to Japan. (Turnstone Press, \$21.00 pb, 300 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-567-9)

GOING THE DISTANCE: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF W. P. KINSELLA

William Steele

Biographer and literary critic Steele, using Kinsella’s personal diaries, correspondence, and unpublished notes, as well as hours of personal interviews with Kinsella and his friends and family, offers insight into Kinsella’s personal life along with critical analysis and commentary on his fiction. (Douglas & McIntyre, \$34.95 hc, 304 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77162-194-6)

JUST LET ME LOOK AT YOU: ON FATHERHOOD

Bill Gaston

In this warm, funny, and subtly powerful memoir, Gaston reflects on his relationship with his deeply flawed father, finding the insight and compassion he lacked as a young son. Despite substantial differences in worldviews and behaviours, Gaston and his father shared a profound love of fishing, and a return to those experiences leads to understanding and forgiveness. (Hamish Hamilton Canada, \$24.95 pb, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-3406-2)

LADDER VALLEY: HELP ME, I’M NAKED – BOOK FOUR

Donna Miller

In the fourth installment of her memoirs, Miller describes living on the edge of the Saskatchewan boreal forest with an abusive spouse – a frank and fast-paced narrative. (Your Nickel’s Worth Publishing, \$21.95 pb, 376 pages, ISBN: 978-1-98878324-6)

LARRY’S LAST RESORT: A TRUE STORY

Susan Riley

More than 20 years after the arrest of her Uncle Larry O’Grady for the murder of his wife, Riley uncovers a collection of his writing that provides evidence of what really happened, and goes on to unravel the tragedy of a family battling mental illness. (Gower Point Press, \$19.95 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-7753160-0-8)

MAMASKATCH: A CREE COMING OF AGE

Darrel J. McLeod

This honest and thought-provoking account of the generational effects of residential school trauma is ultimately uplifting as the author shares how the love and strength of his mother, despite her own harsh history, helped him survive and thrive. (Douglas & McIntyre, \$29.95 hc, 240 pages with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77162-200-4)

MAN OF THE TREES: RICHARD ST. BARBE BAKER, THE FIRST GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTALIST

Paul Hanley

Richard St. Barbe Baker was not only an inspirational visionary and pioneering environmentalist who saved and planted billions of trees – he was also a colonial officer fired for defending Indigenous Africans; a failed entrepreneur and inventor; a proud soldier and peace activist; and a brilliant writer, speaker, and raconteur. (University of Regina Press, \$34.95 pb, 304 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-0-88977-566-4)

MICRO MIRACLE

Amy Boyes

Amy and Josh’s expectations for parenthood are dramatically altered when their daughter is born 16 weeks prematurely, unimaginably fragile, with her survival threatened at every turn. This memoir of a medical triumph is honest, loving, and inspiring. (Signature Editions, \$19.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-37-4)

NORTHERN WILDFLOWER

Catherine Lafferty

This beautiful and powerful memoir tells the story of a Dene woman growing up in a small northern Canadian mining town and her struggles with discrimination, poverty, addiction, love, and loss. Lafferty survives by focusing on the importance of family, education, spiritualism, cultural identity, health, and the courage to speak the truth. (Roseway-Fernwood Publishing, \$20.00 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77363-040-3)

SAM STEELE: A BIOGRAPHY

Rod Macleod

This comprehensive biography follows Steele’s rise from a farm boy in backwoods Ontario to “the man who tamed the Gold Rush,” and finally to the much-lauded Major-General Sir Samuel Benfield Steele, recounting some of the most significant events of the first 50 years of Canadian Confederation. (University of Alberta Press, \$39.99 pb, 320 pages, with b/w photos, maps, bibliography, notes, index, ISBN: 978-77212-379-1)

ESSAYS

DEAR ME: THE WIDOW LETTERS

Compiled by Dianne Young

Young asked widows of various ages and circumstances what they would advise their newly widowed, grief-stricken selves if they could send a letter back in time, and these letters are their answers – answers that may help other new widows as well as their friends and families. (DriverWorks Ink, \$14.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-92757043-2)

INNER RANGES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF MOUNTAIN THOUGHTS AND MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Geoff Powter

Powter brings together both original and previously published editorial and opinion pieces about adventure, personal tales from a life of exploration, and award-winning profiles of some of Canada’s mountaineering greats. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$22.00 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-287-7)

LOVE ME TRUE: WRITERS REFLECT ON THE INS, OUTS, UPS & DOWNS OF MARRIAGE

Edited by Jane Silcott and Fiona Tinwei Lam

This anthology of personal essays and poetry examines marriage from various angles, its history and mystery, delving into ideas of commitment, passion, conflict, and more with non-fiction by such writers as Donna Besel and Susan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

Olding, and poetry by the likes of Lorna Crozier and Lorri Neilsen Glenn.
(Caitlin Press, \$24.95 pb, 272 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-987915-66-2)

REFUSE: CANLIT IN RUINS

Edited by Hannah McGregor,
Julie Rak, and Erin Wunker

Recent controversies in English Canadian Literature have revealed accepted injustices at its heart. Diverse writers from across Canada in a multitude of voices provide a critical and historical context, with the hope of foregrounding the perspectives of those who have been changing the conversation about what CanLit is and what it could be.
(Book*hug, \$25.00 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77166-431-8)

WAITING: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ESSAYS

Edited by Rona Altrows and Julie Sedivy
This collection of 32 personal essays by contributors such as Sharon Butala, Cora Siré, Glen Sorestad, Steven Ross Smith, and Aritha van Herk explores a variety

of perspectives on and interpretations of waiting, ranging from waiting on tables to waiting at train stations and hospitals to waiting for life to begin and to end.
(University of Alberta Press, \$24.99 pb, 290 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-383-8)

FOLKLORE & LEGENDS

CANADIAN MONSTERS & MYTHICAL CREATURES

Andrew Hind

Hind investigates elusive beasts from across Canada, describing the folklore, the evidence left behind, and eyewitness accounts – beasts such as the Sasquatch of the Pacific Coast, the shunka warakin of the Prairies, and the Inuit Qallupilluk.
(Quagmire Press, \$16.95 pb, 232 pages, ISBN: 978-1-926695-37-2)

GREAT CANADIAN GHOST STORIES: LEGENDARY TALES OF HAUNTING FROM COAST TO COAST

Barbara Smith

This collection of ghost stories from across Canada includes the folklore and

legends behind such stories as a poltergeist infestation that tortured a Nova Scotia family, Saskatchewan's ghost-ridden military academy, and a moaning, man-shaped mist that haunts a Yukon cabin.
(TouchWood Editions, \$20.00 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77151-279-4)

FOOD

BEST OF BRIDGE WEEKDAY SUPPERS

Emily Richards and Sylvia Kong

This new cookbook from the Best of Bridge team features 175 recipes that are easy, delicious, and nourishing, including items such as smoky tomato chickpea soup, shrimp and bacon spinach salad, stovetop gnocchi, curried turkey pot pie, and baked mushroom and herb risotto.
(Robert Rose, \$29.95 hc, 320 pages, with colour photographs, ISBN: 978-0-7788-0610-3)

OWEN TOEWS

STOLEN CITY

RACIAL CAPITALISM AND THE MAKING OF WINNIPEG

arpbooks.org

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“*Stolen City* is a riveting account of pan-Indigenous resistance to settler colonial land claims, industries, and (sub)urban development projects in Red River and Winnipeg. Owen Toews shows the vibrant and long threads of counter-planning to settler dispossession and capitalist forms of development. Toews contributes to an exciting and timely conversation on the relationships between racial capitalism and settler colonialism that have relevance for struggles against gentrification and enclosures of land and for planning decolonial futures.”

—Jenna M. Loyd, author of *Boats, Borders, and Bases: Race, the Cold War, and the Rise of Migration Detention in the United States*

“A compelling story of the way that settler colonialism remains a powerful force in the planning and design of the contemporary city. *Stolen City* is creative, theoretically innovative, and skillfully crafted from an exceptional range of historical and ethnographic data woven into an insightful, convincing analysis.”

—Setha Low, Professor of Anthropology and Earth and Environmental Sciences (Geography) and director of the Public Space Research Group at The Graduate Center,

“A sweeping and magnificent spatial history of a city founded in the midst of imperial economic crisis—a crisis resolved through western expansion. Toews intricately weaves theories of racial capitalism into Indian policy from the nineteenth century to contemporary urban development in Winnipeg. This book is a must read for anyone trying to understand the ways that colonization produces spaces that are shaped and then reshaped by hierarchies of difference, rooted in a never-ending struggle to turn Indigenous land into property.”

—Shiri Pasternak, author of *Grounded Authority: The Algonquins of Barriere Lake Against the State*

THE FONDUE BIBLE: THE 200 BEST RECIPES
Ilana Simon

The Fondue Bible contains recipes for hot oil, savoury broth, cheese, and chocolate fondues, both traditional and ones with a twist, along with tips and tricks for fondue cooking. This second edition offers 10 new recipes in an entire section devoted to throwing fondue parties.

(Robert Rose, \$27.95 pb, 320 pages, with colour photographs, ISBN: 978-0-7788-0617-2)

FOOD ARTISANS OF ALBERTA: YOUR TRAIL GUIDE TO THE BEST OF OUR LOCALLY CRAFTED FARE

Karen Anderson and Matilde Sanchez-Turri
The authors introduce the stories, inspiration, and friendly faces of the people who craft great food – like Alberta's signature foods of beef, bison, canola, honey, Red Fife wheat, root vegetables, and Saskatoon berries – and celebrate breweries, charcuteries, cheesemakers, and more from all regions of the province. (TouchWood Editions, \$25.00 pb, 352 pages, full colour throughout, with photos, maps, ISBN: 978-1-77151-246-6)

THE PATH TO WILD FOOD: EDIBLE PLANTS & RECIPES FOR CANADA
Sandra Walker

This ethical field guide and recipe book promotes respect for the natural world and for the cultures that use it effectively, providing information about various plant types and their potential uses as well as recipes for many of the species identified. (Lone Pine Publishing, \$24.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55105-966-2)

GAMES

O CANADA CROSSWORDS: BOOK 19
Gwen Sjogren

This latest instalment of the popular series digs deep into the Canadian landscape with geography themes and taps famous Canadians, offering lots of national content, puns, and fun.

(Nightwood Editions, \$14.95 pb, 224 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-349-9)

TRADITIONAL STORIES

INUIT STORIES OF BEING AND REBIRTH: GENDER, SHAMANISM, AND THE THIRD SEX

Bernard Saladin d'Anglure

Saladin d'Anglure worked with Elders Ujarak and Igallijuq on the small island of Igloolik off of Baffin Island for 30 years, gathering the oral traditions of their people. First published in French in 2006, this book contains an in-depth analysis of stories on womb memories, birth, namesaking, and reincarnation.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 336 pages, with b/w photos, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88755-830-6)

TIPISKAWI KISIK: NIGHT SKY STAR STORIES
Wilfred Buck

Accompanied by original art by Edwin Bighetty, Annette S. Lee, and William Wilson, these tales from an Ininew (Cree) perspective – tales of *Niska* (the Goose), *Mista Muskwa* (the Great Bear), and six other constellations – explore stars and their associated teachings in creative and spiritual ways.

(Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, \$9.95 pb, 36 pages, ISBN: 978-10927849-46-0)

TRAVEL

A FEW FEET SHORT: AN UNCOMMON JOURNEY TO EVEREST

Jamey Glasnovic

This follow-up to his first book, *Lost and Found*, sees the author searching for enlightenment and spiritual guidance through northeastern Nepal and up into the Khumbu Valley, traditional homeland of the Sherpa people, finding his way eventually, without any intention of actually climbing it, to Mount Everest.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 360 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-291-4)

LINES ON A MAP: UNPARALLELED ADVENTURES IN MODERN EXPLORATION

Frank Wolf

This collection of travel journalism captures two decades of adventurer, writer, filmmaker, and environmentalist Wolf's writing, chronicling such

adventures as cycling and volcano climbing across Java, a private lunch with Pierre Trudeau during a canoe trip across Canada, and tracking mammals while skiing across Banff National Park.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$25.00 pb, 360 pages, with colour photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-289-1)

MAGNETIC NORTH: SEA VOYAGE TO SVALBARD

Jenna Butler

Travelling as a writer in residence on an ice-class sailing vessel around the Svalbard archipelago off the coast of Norway, Butler brings a conservationist, feminist, and poet's eye to the explorer narratives and the mythic draw of the North, and to the beauty and power of threatened landscapes.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 116 pages, with b/w photos, map, ISBN: 978-1-77212-382-1)

Little old dachshund is an unlikely, reluctant hero

Dog's-eye narration tackles tough subjects with sensitivity and humour

by Amanda Sanders

COOP THE GREAT

Larry Verstraete

Yellow Dog-Great Plains Publications (greatplains.mb.ca)

\$11.95 pb, 160 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77337-009-5

Winnipeg author Larry Verstraete tackles aging, change, turbulent relationships, and moving forward from the past in *Coop the Great*, his latest novel for young readers, or as the promotional material deems it, “Best for all ages.”

The story is told from the perspective of an old, unwanted rescue dachshund named Cooper. When the animal shelter that Cooper resides at is having (yet another) adoption fair, he’s not feeling hopeful.

To his surprise, an elderly man chooses him, and Coop takes his blanket and heads home with Mike.

Mike is a widower with heart problems and a territorial cat named Lucinda, and Coop wonders how long it will be until he heads back to the shelter as he has many times before. Coop doesn’t have the most positive outlook at the beginning of the novel.

“Being adopted and then rejected many times, Coop has a sour look on life,” Verstraete says.



“By having Coop tell the story, I felt I could add touches of insight and humour, but also get personal in a somewhat detached way.” VERSTRAETE

The award-winning author of 16 books for young people states that his initial thought was to make Coop a young dog, but that wasn’t a good fit for Mike.

“As an old dog, he was a better match to Mike, his new owner, who was also old and facing the same challenges as he ages.”

While Mike and Coop fall into a pretty unremarkable schedule, complete with bedtime stories of heroic dogs, things get complicated when Mike’s daughter Jess, due to problems with her abusive ex, moves her two kids, Zach and Emma, in with Mike to keep them safe while she looks for a new place to live.

They have a rough start, largely due to Zach’s teenage moodiness, but everything falls into place with the kids’ new routine.

The subject of abuse can be a very heavy one in fiction. Verstraete takes a new approach to the topic by having Coop as the sole narrator of this story.

“By having Coop tell the story,” he says, “I felt I could add touches of insight and humour, but also get personal in a somewhat detached way. I could broach sensitive subjects like abuse by filtering it through a character with limited faculties who is more of a viewer than a participant.”

Like all limited first-person narrators, Coop can only tell so much – sometimes he is limited by what he hears and sees, but sometimes he limits himself, with a touching consideration for his audience.

For example, when Zach’s language gets too colourful, Coop states that he really shouldn’t repeat some of the words. Coop’s honest approach to relating the story is refreshing, and he understands a lot about mistreatment and its effects, bringing a certain wisdom to his narration.

As the novel progresses and dangers of all kinds present themselves, Coop grows into his greatness, and he proves that small, old, previously rejected dogs can be just as heroic as the dogs in the stories Mike read to him.

While Coop has been unloved and damaged in his former life, by the end of the book he takes Mike’s sage advice to heart: “We can’t change the past. We can only move forward.” 🐾



Know your rights, and then ask questions

Guidebook aims to empower young people to advocate for themselves

by Paula E. Kirman

THE LAW IS (NOT) FOR KIDS:

A Legal Rights Guide for Canadian Children and Teens

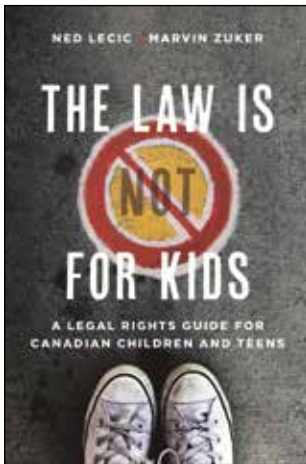
Ned Lecic and Marvin Zuker

Athabasca University Press (aupress.ca)

\$22.99 pb, 204 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77199-237-4

The law is not easy for adults to navigate, let alone for children and teens. However, young people need to be aware of their legal rights.



The Law is (Not) for Kids: A Legal Rights Guide for Canadian Children and Teens is a practical guide to the law, written especially for Canadian youth.

“As a longtime activist researching the legal rights of children and youth, I had always found the exact extent of these rights to be difficult to pinpoint,” co-author Ned Lecic, who is also a copy editor and translator, says.

He says that much of the information available for young readers is incomplete, conflicting, or inaccurate.

Lecic contacted Marvin Zuker to collaborate after remembering the book *The Law Is Not for Women*, a comprehensive guide to women’s legal rights, which was co-written in the 1970s by Zuker and June Callwood.

“I thought it was time that young people were given a similar book that would explain what rights the law gives them and withholds from them clearly and comprehensively, but which also encourages the reader to question the limits that the law and society place on youth,” Lecic says.

Zuker, associate professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, says the book will provide young people with

information that many would not otherwise receive.

Outside of some high school law or civics classes, most young people might not have access to “information about their rights and responsibilities, what they can and cannot do (legally), federal and provincial and municipal laws that impact them, things like the social media, et cetera.”

The book also encourages young people to organize and advocate for more legal rights.

“Although there are some opportunities that did not exist in previous generations for youth to participate in decision making, and although there is, for example, less tolerance for child abuse than there used to be, by and large, the attitude of the law and society is still that adults are in charge over young people, even pretty mature ones,” Lecic says.

“It is still often difficult for children to get even their opinions heard and duly taken into account, let alone to make final decisions about matters that affect them (and where they can legally do so, they may not always be told how to go about it).”

And children have the right to express their views and participate in decisions concerning them, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“Children must be respected and given increased autonomy. A child is not a piece of property, and parental rights do not automatically trump rights of the child,” Zuker says.

Children may also need protection. “Young people have the right to be free from all forms of violence. In short, there needs to be a child-based rights approach in law,” he adds.

Lecic hopes to provide children and teens easy access to information on how the law treats them in a wide variety of situations – in the family, at school, at work, and so on.

He also hopes that “young readers will come away as seeing themselves as worthy of having rights and that the book will start a conversation in society at large on the subject of increasing the rights of children and teens.”



Brave, bold steps for both character and illustrator

T-Rex superhero was inspired by five-year-old daughter's own drawing

by Shirley Byers

T-REX GIRL

Gwen Smid

Illustrated by Ko-Chi Chen

Peanut Butter Press

(peanutbutterpress.ca)

\$19.95 hc, 24 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927735-58-9

In less than 300 exquisitely chosen words, and crisp images that leap off the pages, writer Gwen Smid and illustrator Ko-Chi Chen tell the story of Ting, “a smart and quiet girl who loves to learn ... a kind and thoughtful girl who loves to dream.”

T-Rex Girl is a powerful picture book showing the transformation of Ting, who starts off being too shy to put up her hand in the classroom or to join in the fun on the playground. Then through the creation of a costume on a Monday, Ting becomes T-Rex Girl, growing braver each day.

By Friday, she is even brave enough to rescue a little one trapped at the top of the monkey bars. Halfway up, however, T-Rex Girl is forced to give up, and Ting must go on without her.

The idea for *T-Rex Girl* came to Smid one day when she was drawing with her five-year-old daughter, Cedar.

“She showed me a picture and I asked her to tell me about her cool character,” Smid says.

Cedar replied that it was T-Rex Girl. “I was immediately in love with the concept. The two of us chatted more about T-Rex Girl: about her talents, likes, dislikes, her friends, and her fears.”

T-Rex Girl continued to hang around their home, even driving with Smid to work on her 45-minute commute from Wakefield, Quebec, into Ottawa where she teaches high school English language arts. It was during one of these drives that this line came into existence: “Chomp! Chomp! Chomp! Double hop! Stomp!”

“The story took off from there,” Smid says. “I am immensely proud of my daughter’s imagination. Her original T-Rex Girl drawing appears in the book on one of the classroom bulletin boards.”

Smid, originally from Winnipeg, is also the author of *Mary’s Atlas: Mary Meets*

Manitoba and *Mary’s Atlas: Mary Meets Ontario*.

Ko-Chi Chen, the illustrator for *T-Rex Girl*, is one of Smid’s students. This is her first book and her first work experience, she says.

“I felt really flattered that the publisher and the author gave me this opportunity. This has been an



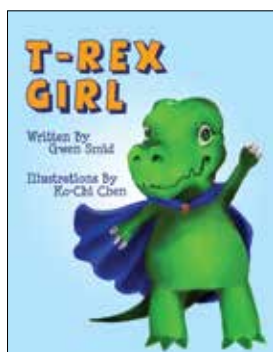
“I am immensely proud of my daughter’s imagination. Her original T-Rex Girl drawing appears in the book on one of the classroom bulletin boards.” SMID

amazing experience for me! It’s given me the chance to have a closer look at the picture book industry, and also allowed me to know more about what it feels like to be an illustrator.”

She drew the illustrations digitally using the program IllustStudio. “In the beginning of the process, I read the contexts and drew out rough sketches for each page,” she says.

Author, illustrator, and publisher worked as a team. As they talked about what needed to be done, Chen redrew some of the sketches. Once the sketches were approved, she worked on the final drawings, which were also checked and approved.

This may be the start of a big career for Chen. “I’ll go to college to study animation in September,” she says. “I am looking forward to learning more drawing skills and techniques.” 🐾



Meeting challenges to unity with respect

Teen protagonist navigates community tension in accessible language

by Shirley Byers

UNITY CLUB

Karen Spafford-Fitz

Orca Book Publishers

(orcabook.com)

\$9.95 pb, 144 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4598-1724-1

Karen Spafford-Fitz has loved books and reading all of her life and she has been writing since she was five years old.

“From when I was very young, I loved writing stories. Spinning tales about characters and events that I had made up myself felt decadent and delicious. (It still does!)”

She put writing on the back burner, became a teacher, married, and had two children. While she was at home with her young daughters she was contracted to write educational software based on the elementary language arts curriculum.

“This experience reminded me how much I enjoyed writing, and I particularly lost my heart to writing for young people,” Spafford-Fitz says.

Unity Club, her fifth book, is written for middle-grade readers who are 10 to 14 years old. “Particularly because of the years I spent among elementary and junior high students, I have a soft spot for young people who read with difficulty,”

Spafford-Fitz says. She is proud that all five of her books are accessible to reluctant readers.

Unity Club’s protagonist, Brett, is a junior high school student living in Edmonton with her father. Although her parents have been divorced for three years, Brett’s mother has recently moved to Winnipeg. She’s trying to stay in touch but Brett is not answering her texts.

Keeping busy helps Brett cope, and being president of the Unity Club keeps Brett busy. The Unity Club’s mandate is to make a positive difference. Members volunteer and fundraise in the community and for causes around the world. When a group home is established in the neighbourhood, they knit scarves for the teens living there.

But not everyone welcomes the group home or the kids in it. And very soon after the kids move in, incidents such as graffiti, vandalism, and possibly an attack on an elderly lady lead to a

rise in tension and fear, and even the Unity Club members are wondering if the kids from the Blue House are responsible. Even Brett is wondering.

Some of Spafford-Fitz’s books are issue-related – she’s written about parental abduction, bullying, group homes – but they don’t feel preachy.



“I also write from a place of respect for kids and teens ... I refuse to talk down to them.”

SPAFFORD-FITZ

“For me, the first step in writing stories is to get inside my characters’ heads,” she says. “And so, my protagonists frequently write me letters, telling me about their fears, their deepest secrets, their most pressing needs, et cetera. (‘Dear Karen: You might think you know me, but there are some important things I haven’t told you yet...’)”

Spafford-Fitz likes to write in the first person, and says that speaking in that “I” voice as though she is the main character helps her establish her protagonist’s voice, and shows her how that character would think and react in different situations.

“I also write from a place of respect for kids and teens,” she says. “I refuse to talk down to them, and I believe that when young people are given the relevant facts and information, most will make responsible choices.”

“I hope that my respect for young people comes through in my books, and that it helps create an engaging reading experience for them.”



MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

PICTURE BOOKS

BITTER AND SWEET

Sandra V. Feder, illustrated

by Kyrsten Brooker

Drawing on Jewish culture and tradition, this subtle picture book shows how Hannah, with the help of her grandmother and a new friend, manages to discover the sweetness among the bitterness of moving to a new city.

(Groundwood Books, \$17.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55498-995-9)

BUDDY AND EARL MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Maureen Fergus, illustrated

by Carey Sookocheff

In this fifth Buddy and Earl adventure, the rule-abiding dog and the risk-taking hedgehog take on super powers to not only befriend their neighbours, Mister the bulldog and Snowball the cat, but also to save Snowball from a tough spot.

(Groundwood Books, \$16.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77306-025-5)

THE BUNNY BAND

Bill Richardson, illustrated

by Roxanna Bikadoroff

Lavinia the badger is an avid gardener, so is dismayed to find one morning that her lettuce has been nibbled and her potatoes have disappeared. She traps the culprit, a frightened rabbit, who rewards her for letting her go by bringing dozens of bunnies with all kinds of instruments to play enchanting music night after night. (Groundwood Books, \$16.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77306-093-4)

DINOSAUR RODEO

Sheldon Dawson

Billy's grandpa responds to his question about whether he was around in the dinosaur days with tales of his exploits as a Broncosaurus rider in the dinosaur rodeos and his theory that dinosaurs still exist, hiding amidst the hoodoos of Alberta.

(Peanut Butter Press, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927735-59-6)

THE GIFTS OF BABY DUCK

Ann McLeod, illustrated by F. J. Moriarty

Set in the Sturgeon Lake in northern Alberta, this story of Baby Duck explores parental love, bullying, and self-esteem as a mother explains all the gifts that Baby Duck will develop as he grows.

(Tellwell Talent, 28 pages, \$19.95 hc, ISBN: 978-1-77370-258-2; \$9.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-77370-259-9)

JUNK-PILE JENNIFER

John F. Green, illustrated by

Maryann Kovalski

Jennifer collects Captain Astroblast comics, and she collects junk – so much junk, in fact, that she is forced to move out of her bedroom into a shelter made of junk in her backyard. When Captain Astroblast himself crashes in her yard, it is up to Jennifer and her junk to get him back in space!

(Peanut Butter Press, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927735-57-2)

KISS BY KISS: A COUNTING BOOK FOR FAMILIES / OCÊTÔWINA: PEYAK ÔSKÂN OHCIH—AKITÂH-MASINAHIKAN

Richard Van Camp, translated

by Mary Cardinal Collins

This dual language (English/Plains Cree) edition of Van Camp's delightful board book honours families from all backgrounds.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$9.95 hc, 26 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-1621-3)

LITTLE YOU / NĪYA-K'APISISISĪYÂN

Richard Van Camp, illustrated by Julie

Flett, translated by Mary Cardinal Collins

This dual language (English/Plains Cree) edition of Van Camp's tender baby book celebrates the wonder that a baby brings to this world.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$6.95 pb, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2006-7)

LUCY TRIES HOCKEY

Lisa Bowes, illustrated by James Hearne

In this latest Lucy Tries Sports title, Lucy enrolls in an introductory hockey clinic where she and her friends learn basic hockey skills and have fun on the ice.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$12.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-1694-7)

MISS MILDRED MEETS THE BARE-NAKED OWL

John F. Green, illustrated by Edtie Doll

Miss Mildred ventures out for a drive and meets an owl whose feathers were frightened off of him in a storm. The two hit it off, and the owl joins her not only for a picnic, but also to live in her home full of assorted animals and birds.

(Peanut Butter Press, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927735-56-5)

MY BUDDY, DIDO!

Marion Mutala, illustrated

by Olha Tkachenko

Dedicated to the grandfathers of the world, this charming picture book celebrates the love two siblings have for their dido in rhyming text and vibrant illustrations depicting his storytelling, cooking, and playful ways.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-23-9)

THE REPTILE CLUB

Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Elina Ellis

Rory can't find a club at his new school that suits him, so he decides to start his own club about (or is it for?) something he loves – reptiles! And who are his first members? A crocodile, an anaconda, and a gecko!

(Kids Can Press, \$18.99 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77138-655-5)

THE UNDERDOG DUCKLING

Sally Meadows, illustrated

by Olha Tkachenko

Quinn has to go live with his grandfather in the big city when Quinn's mom gets sick. For comfort during this difficult time, he goes to a nearby pond, where he connects with a duckling on its own.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-30-7)

WE SANG YOU HOME / KA KĪWEH NĪKÂMÔSTAMÂTINÂN

Richard Van Camp, illustrated by Julie

Flett, translated by Mary Cardinal Collins

This dual language (English/Plains Cree) edition of Van Camp's sweet baby book celebrates the bond between new parents and children.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$6.95 pb, 26 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2014-2)

**WELCOME SONG FOR BABY: A LULLABY
FOR NEWBORNS / NI NIKAMON 'TAWĀW
NIPEĪMIS': NISTOMĀWASOWIN
OHCIIH OSKAWĀSIS**

Richard Van Camp, translated
by Mary Cardinal Collins

This dual language (English/Plains Cree)
edition of Van Camp's lyrical baby book
sings of a loving future for all babies.
(Orca Book Publishers, \$6.95 pb, 24 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-4598-2010-4)

**WHEN THE TREES CRACKLE WITH
COLD: A CREE SEASONS ACTIVITY BOOK**

Bernice Johnson-Laxdal and Miriam
Körner, illustrated by Miriam Körner

This companion book to *When the Trees
Crackle with Cold: A Cree Calendar* connects
young children to the seasonal cycle and
teaches about traditional activities of the
Cree Peoples of northern Saskatchewan
through colouring pages, hands-on
activities, word searches, mazes, and
templates for crafts.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$12.95 pb,
32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-16-1)

YOU CAN COUNT ON THE PRAIRIES

Leila J. Olfert

Using vibrant photographs of Prairie
landscapes, this book encourages young
learners to count grain bins from 1 to 15 as
they journey across the Prairies.
(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$12.95 pb,
32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-11-6)

**EARLY YEARS CHAPTER
BOOKS**

**THE ICE CHIPS AND THE
HAUNTED HURRICANE**

Roy MacGregor and Kerry MacGregor,
illustrated by Kim Smith

This second title in a chapter book series
by the MacGregor father-daughter duo,
illustrated by Calgary-based Smith, takes
the time-travelling Ice Chips hockey team
to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the middle of
a storm, to learn about perseverance and
creativity from a young Sidney Crosby.
(HarperCollins, \$16.99 hc, 176 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-44345-231-1)

JESSIE THE DOO-DOO DOG GOES TO THE VET
Bill and Jocelyn Hutchinson

Jessie and her sister Jo-Jo and their cousins,
Katcha and Krissy, generally have nothing
but fun, but when Jessie overhears that
she's going to the vet for her booster shots,
she gets worried – especially when Krissy
tells her that the vet might turn her into
a sausage!

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$14.95 pb,
96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-31-4)

LARK TAKES A BOW

Natasha Deen, illustrated by Marcus Cutler

This third title in the Lark Ba Detective
series follows Lark and Connor as they
investigate the mysterious pranks being
played on the local community theatre
company, pranks so nasty that the play is
at risk of being closed before it opens!

(Orca Book Publishers, \$6.95 pb, 96 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-4598-1715-9)

MIDDLE YEARS

THE LAND OF YESTERDAY

K. A. Reynolds

Winnipeg-raised Reynolds explores grief
and guilt in this fantasy story of Cecelia
Dahl, who must journey to the Land of
Yesterday – where her brother's soul went
when he was killed in an accident, and
where her mother went to be with him – in
order to make life worth living again.

(HarperCollins, \$21.00 hc, 272 pages,
ISBN: 978-0-06-267392-3)

THE MASK

Eric Howling

Centre on a bantam hockey team, Logan
Grant had it all until a terrible fire left him
scarred and embarrassed. An old goalie
mask gives him the courage to return to
the rink and to discover that a person's
true worth lies in inner goodness, not
surface appearances.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$9.95 pb, 160 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-4598-1879-8)

MILES TO GO

Beryl Young

Set in 1940s Saskatchewan, this story of
a friendship between Anna, from a large
Polish immigrant family, and Maggie,

the daughter of the local RCMP officer in
charge, explores loss, family, loyalty, and
the value of keeping a promise.
(Wandering Fox-Heritage House, \$12.95 pb,
224 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77203-264-2)

RESCUE IN THE ROCKIES

Rita Feutl

Janey is spending the holidays with her
grandma in Banff, when, annoyed with
her grandma's boyfriend Max, she runs
away and ends up farther away than
she thought possible – back in time first
to 1883, then, with Max along, to an
internment camp during the First World
War, and finally to an "Indian Days"
celebration after the war. How can she
make it back to the present?

(Coteau Books, \$12.95 pb, 126 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-55050-948-9)

WINNIE'S GREAT WAR

Lindsay Mattick and Josh Greenhut,
illustrated by Sophie Blackall

This blend of historical research and
imagination tells the story of Winnie the
Bear from her infancy, to her friendship
with Captain Harry Colebourn and her
time as the mascot of his brigade, to her
experiences in wartime London before she
met Christopher Robin Milne.

(HarperCollins, \$17.99 hc, 256 pages,
ISBN: 978-1-44345-698-2)

YUKON GOLD MYSTERY

Yvonne Harris

On their way to a trapper's cabin, friends
Charlie and Claire, and their older siblings
Victoria and Edward, encounter two
disreputable gold miners looking for
stashed gold. Charlie and Claire escape into
the Yukon wilderness, while Edward and
Victoria are held by the two villains, who
think the children know more about the
gold than they say.

(Dragon Hill Publishing, \$9.95 pb, 160
pages, ISBN: 978-1-896124-72-8)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

YOUNG ADULT

CHILDREN OF THE BLOODLANDS

S. M. Beiko

The second book of the intricate Realms of Ancient series follows the paths of the five children – representatives of the five ancient animal families who maintain the world's balance – who travel far and wide, this time to battle the monster called Seela that has risen from the Bloodlands. (ECW Press, \$22.95 hc, 488 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77041-358-0)

HIDE AND SHRIEK

Alison Hughes

A Friday-night game of hide-and-seek, after the town's new curfew, leads Emily, Tess, Cam, and Dylan into the kind of danger where they need to put their hide-and-seek skills to work for real. (Orca Book Publishers, \$9.95 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-1873-6)

JUST JULIAN

Markus Harwood-Jones

A companion novel to *Romeo for Real*, this modern retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, with two young men as the lovers, gives the artistic and sensitive Julian's perspective of the developing romance. (Lorimer, \$14.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1292-7)

MABEL THE NOTORIOUS DWARF

Sherry Peters

The Ballad of Mabel Goldenaxe trilogy concludes with Mabel's latest adventure. Her career in the movies is over, and her relationship with Brent the art dealer is not a healthy one.

Maybe she should return to her first love, axe throwing?

(DwarvenAmazon Press, \$16.99 pb, 372 pages, ISBN: 978-0-9920535-7-4)

MONSTERS

David A. Robertson

In this second novel in The Reckoner series, Cole Harper tries to settle into life in the Wounded Sky First Nation, but that isn't easy when he has to solve the mysteries of what the creature in Blackwood Forest is all about, who is responsible for locking down the health clinic, and how his father died, all while dealing with high school. (HighWater Press, \$19.95 pb, 230 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-748-7)

MURDER AT THE ST. ALICE

Becky Citra

In 1908, 16-year-old Charlotte O'Dell lives and works at the St. Alice Hotel to make enough money to finish school. She organizes a march for suffragettes and makes new friends, including one of the regulars, Mr. Doyle – but then Doyle is murdered, and Charlotte is arrested. (Coteau Books, \$14.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55050-962-5)

ROMEO FOR REAL

Markus Harwood-Jones

A companion novel to *Just Julian*, this modern retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, with two young men as the lovers, gives the athletic and popular Romeo's perspective of the developing romance. (Lorimer, \$14.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1296-5)

WOLFE IN SHEPHERD'S CLOTHING

Counios and Gane

This latest Shepherd & Wolfe Mystery sees Tony Shepherd's family taking in his co-investigator Charlie Wolfe, who has wound up homeless. They are trying to avoid any more dangerous mysteries, but Detective Gekas needs their help once dismembered bodies are found around the city. (Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 480 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-13-0)

NON-FICTION

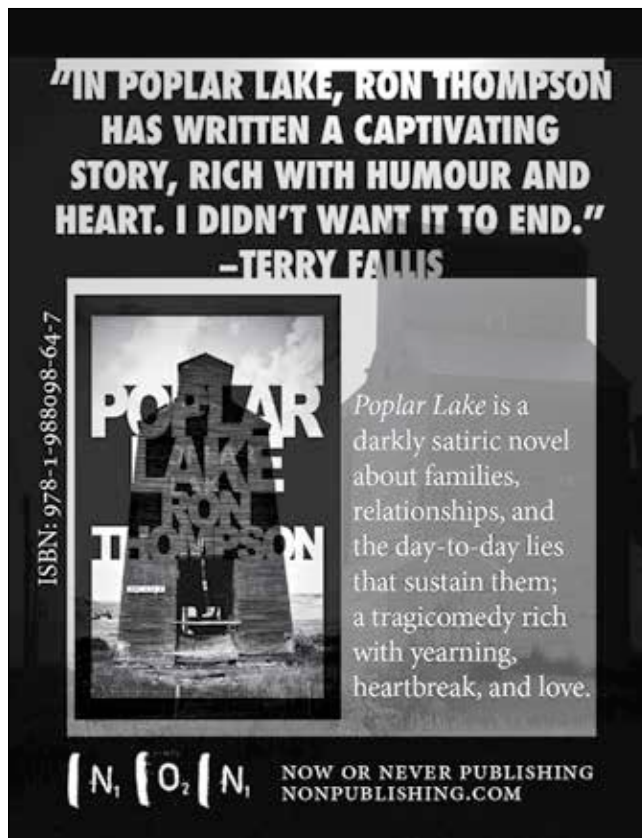
CHRISTMAS: FROM SOLSTICE TO SANTA

Nikki Tate and Dani Tate-Stratton

Part of the non-fiction Origins series for middle readers, this book about the history and practice of Christmas celebrations – games played,

foods eaten, music played, and decorations displayed – all over the globe is illustrated with archival and colour photographs.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$24.95 hc, 80 pages, with glossary, resources, index, ISBN: 978-1-4598-1355-7)



NEW FALL TITLES FROM NEWEST PRESS



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~ Literary Fiction ~
Bill Harcourt recruits listeners to spy on London's conversations but he has no idea what they'll report back ...

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Exposing, as a photograph does, the complicated relationship we have with mortality.

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~ Mystery ~
Detective Lane and his partner are conscripted into a high-stakes undercover operation in Mexico.

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THE MIGHTY CARLINS

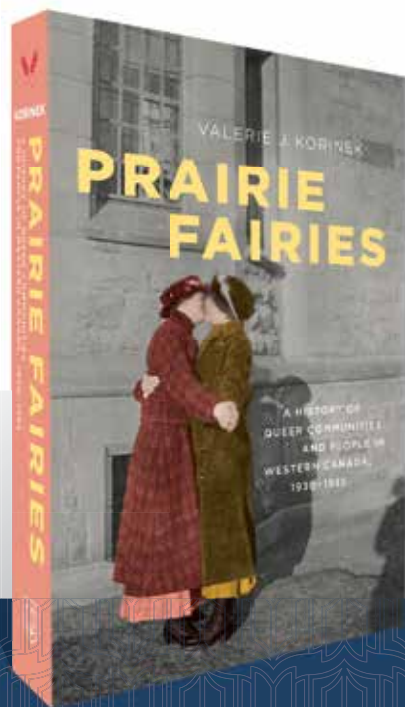
BY COLLIN DOYLE

~ Prairie Play Series ~
Three gripping plays that display a keen understanding of dysfunctional human relationships.

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Praise for *Prairie Fairies* from University of Toronto Press

"*Prairie Fairies* is an excellent and an extremely valuable contribution to the growing field of Canadian lesbian, gay, and queer history."

Liz Millward, University of Manitoba

"Valerie Korinek's *Prairie Fairies* takes us deep into a history of Canada's central prairie provinces where few scholars have previously ventured. This volume is a must for anyone seeking a better understanding of the persevering lives of a people who have long been at the heart of the North American continent and its story."

Peter Boag, Washington State University



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Kids don't have it in them to turn away

A story that needs to be told

by Lucien Chaput

SANS NIMÂMÂ

Melanie Florence

Illustrated by François Thisdale

Translated by Diane Lavoie

Les Éditions des Plaines

\$11.95 pb, 32 pages

ISBN: 978-2-89611-654-6

Sitting in her publisher's office, Melanie Florence was leafing through the proofs of Jennifer Lanthier's picture book *The Stamp Collector*. Amazed by François Thisdale's illustrations, "out of the blue," she tells her publisher, "Someone needs to write a book like this about missing and murdered Indigenous women." That was the moment *Missing Nimâmâ* was born.

Kateri is a young girl, growing up in the care of her grandmother. Her mother, although absent, watches her grow up as she reaches important milestones in her life.

Told in alternating voices, *Missing Nimâmâ* shows "the human side of a national tragedy." Florence and François Thisdale, the illustrator of the picture book, shared the \$30,000 prize as winners of the 2016 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award for *Missing Nimâmâ*.

A writer of Cree and Scottish heritage with 10 published books to her credit, Florence has never shied away from tough subjects.

"When you talk about a difficult subject like residential schools or missing and murdered Indigenous women, a lot of people shy away. It's an ugly subject; it's a hard subject to grasp," she says.

Ce n'est pas en eux de tourner le dos

Une histoire qu'il faut raconter

par Lucien Chaput

SANS NIMÂMÂ

Melanie Florence

Illustrations de François Thisdale

Traduction de Diane Lavoie

Les Éditions des Plaines

11,95 \$ lc, 32 pages

ISBN : 978-2-89611-654-6

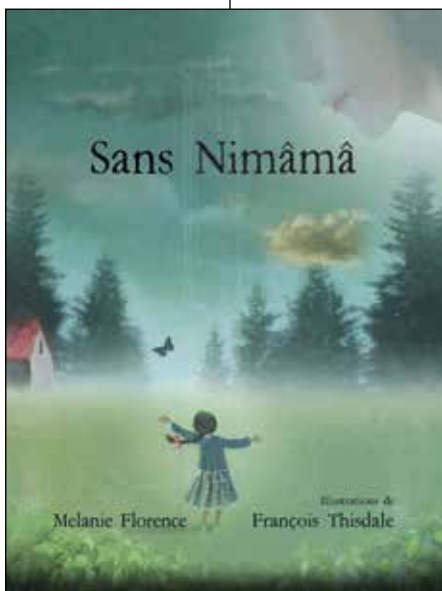
Assise dans le bureau de son éditrice, Melanie Florence feuilletait les épreuves de l'album *The Stamp Collector* de Jennifer Lanthier. Émerveillée par les illustrations de François Thisdale, elle dit, sans trop y réfléchir, « quelqu'un devrait écrire un livre comme celui-ci au sujet des femmes autochtones disparues ou assassinées ». C'est de là qu'est né *Missing Nimâmâ*.

Kateri est une jeune fille qui grandit sous les soins de sa grand-mère. Au fur et à mesure qu'elle franchit des étapes importantes de sa vie, on constate que sa mère veille sur sa fille qui grandit sans elle.

Raconté dans des voix narratrices alternantes, *Missing Nimâmâ* montre le « côté humain d'une tragédie nationale ». Florence et François Thisdale, l'illustrateur de l'album, ont partagé le prix de 30 000 \$ comme récipiendaires du prix TD de la littérature canadienne pour l'enfance et la jeunesse.

Les sujets difficiles n'effraient pas Florence, une écrivaine cri/écossaise avec dix livres à son actif.

« Beaucoup sont repoussés par des sujets difficiles comme les écoles résidentielles ou les femmes autochtones disparues ou assassinées. C'est dur comme réalité, c'est difficile à saisir », dit-elle.



“I find that kids are much more open to learning about these subjects than a lot of grownups. Kids just don’t have it in them to turn their faces away. They are interested in finding out more and passing the knowledge along. That is why I decided I wanted to write for a younger audience.”

St. Boniface publishing house Éditions des Plaines has just published the award-winning book in French translation. In *Sans Nimâmâ*, Winnipeg-based author and translator Diane Lavoie has beautifully rendered the gentle free verse style of the original.

The 32-page French-language edition reproduces Thisdale’s dream-like illustrations where an attentive reader can discover various words written in Cree syllabics, such as *nimâmâ* (mother), *kamâmakos* (butterfly), and *nôhkom* (grandmother).

Florence isn’t sure whose idea it was to put the Cree words in the illustrations. Probably Thisdale’s.

“It was not mine, but it’s a great idea,” she says. “It’s important to me to actually use Cree words in my books. Through the residential school experience in Canada, we’ve lost so much of our language; there are too many people who don’t speak it anymore. That is one of the reasons why I want to, even in a really small way, try to honour the language and bring it back.”

“It’s important to me to actually use Cree words in my books. Through the residential school experience in Canada, we’ve lost so much of our language; there are too many people who don’t speak it anymore.” FLORENCE

« C’est important pour moi d’utiliser des mots cris dans mes livres. Avec l’expérience des écoles résidentielles au Canada, nous avons perdu beaucoup. Il y a trop de personnes qui ne le parlent plus. » FLORENCE



« Je trouve que les enfants sont beaucoup plus ouverts à apprendre à propos de ces sujets que la plupart des adultes. Ce n’est pas en eux d’y tourner le dos. Ils sont intéressés à en apprendre plus et à transmettre ces connaissances. C’est pour cela que j’ai voulu écrire pour un lectorat plus jeune. »

Les Éditions des Plaines de Saint-Boniface viennent de publier en traduction française ce livre primé. Dans *Sans Nimâmâ*, l’écrivaine et traductrice de Winnipeg Diane Lavoie a rendu avec brio la gentillesse du style en vers libres de l’original.

L’album de 32 pages reprend les illustrations féeriques de Thisdale dans lesquelles un lecteur attentif y découvre des mots cris en caractères syllabiques, tels que *nimâmâ* (maman), *kamâmakos* (papillon), *nôhkom* (grand-mère).

Florence ne se souvient plus qui a eu l’idée de cacher des mots cris dans les illustrations. Thisdale, sans doute.

« Ce n’était pas la mienne, mais c’était génial », dit-elle. « C’est important pour moi d’utiliser des mots cris dans mes livres. Avec l’expérience des écoles résidentielles au Canada, nous avons perdu beaucoup. Il y a trop de personnes qui ne le parlent plus. C’est l’une des raisons pourquoi je veux, d’une façon très modeste, honorer la langue et de la ramener. »

Modern myth gets tongue-in-cheek treatment

French take on Ovid's tale explores humanity and transformation

by Liz Katynski

LES DERNIERS DIEUX

Simone Chaput

Les Éditions du Blé (ble.refc.ca)

\$21.95 pb, 284 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924378-76-2

In her first year of university, Simone Chaput fell in love with a Greek myth from *Metamorphoses* by Ovid, and she longed to write a modern version.

In her 10th book, a novel called *Les derniers dieux*, she does just that.

“It was my dream for many years. And now, I have accomplished it,” the author says.

“I took an ancient myth written two to three thousand years ago, and all that it represented, and I brought it into the 21st century. Tiresias became Thierry Sias, a writer.”

In the original story, Tiresias was changed into a woman for seven years as punishment from a goddess. He changes his life and is transformed.

“It is so strange. If a woman could experience life in the body of a man, we could really understand each other. Everything would be intuitive,” Chaput says. “In the end, he found it difficult to be a woman. He cursed the transformation but he fell in love. He was given a gift, a rich experience. And he was happy to remain who he was.”

Les derniers dieux is the story of a writer and his metamorphosis, the

Mythe moderne avec un clin d'œil

Actualisation d'un mythe d'Ovide en français : une exploration de l'humanité et de la transformation

par Liz Katynski

LES DERNIERS DIEUX

Simone Chaput

Les Éditions du Blé

21,95 \$ papier, 284 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924378-76-2

Durant sa première année à l'université, Simone Chaput a été captivée par un mythe grec d'Ovide dans *Les Métamorphoses*, et elle rêvait à écrire l'histoire au présent.

Avec son dixième livre, le roman *Les derniers dieux*, elle réalise son rêve.

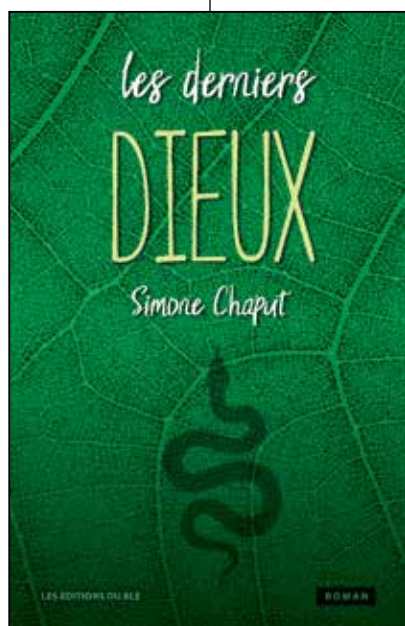
« C'était un vieux rêve depuis des années. Et maintenant, je l'ai accompli, » dit l'auteure.

« J'ai pris un ancien mythe, écrits il y a deux ou trois mille ans, et ce que ça représente, et je l'ai transféré au 21^e siècle. Tirésias devient Thierry Sias, un écrivain. »

Dans l'original, Tirésias est transformé en femme pour sept ans par une déesse comme punition. Il est obligé de changer sa vie, et il se transforme.

« C'est tellement bizarre. Si comme femme, on pouvait vivre dans le corps d'un homme, on se comprendrait. Tout serait intuitif », dit-elle. « À la fin, il a trouvé ça très difficile d'être femme. Il maudit cette transformation, mais il tombe en amour. Il a eu un don, une très grande richesse de l'expérience. Et, il est content de rester ce qu'il était. »

Les derniers dieux, c'est l'histoire d'un écrivain et de ses métamorphoses, l'histoire d'un ancien mythe qui se



“He learns that life as a woman is not easy. Men can be pigs.” CHAPUT

story of an ancient myth that takes place in modern times.

“My dear friend gets mixed up in the affairs of the gods. He has his troubles. He is curious. He is human,” Chaput says.

“The book is written tongue-in-cheek. He learns that life as a woman is not easy. Men can be pigs.”

Chaput was born in St. Boniface and has been writing for 35 years.

“I have always loved literature. I read a lot. I studied in London, England, and in Toronto. At the time, people told me everyone was becoming a professor of literature and there were no jobs. So, I thought, if I can’t teach literature, I can write it,” Chaput says.

Of her 10 books, she has published nine novels and one collection of short stories. Only two of her books were written in English. “I studied in English, but I soon realized I had to translate my thoughts. It was not my voice. I am at home in French. It’s my language, and for me, a more elegant one.”

In her books, she often writes about the artist. “Artists interest me. Their reason for being is very clear.”

Writing is a privilege, she says. “I have had so much support to do what I do. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to do what I love.”



passé de nos jours. « Mon cher ami se mêle dans les affaires des dieux. Il a ses ennuis. Il est curieux. C’est humain », dit Chaput.

« C’est écrit avec un clin d’œil. Il découvre que pour les femmes, ça n’a pas de bon sens. Les hommes peuvent être des cochons. »

Chaput est née à Saint-Boniface, et elle écrit depuis 35 ans. « J’ai toujours aimé la littérature. Je lisais beaucoup.

J’ai étudié à Londres, et à Toronto. Dans ce temps, d’autres m’ont dit que tout le monde est professeur de littérature, et il n’avait pas de jobs. Alors j’ai pensé, si je ne peux pas enseigner la littérature, je vais écrire. »

De ses dix livres, elle a publié neuf romans et une collection de nouvelles. Seulement deux de ses livres ont été écrits en anglais. « J’ai reçu ma formation en anglais, mais j’ai vite découvert que j’avais à traduire. Ce n’était pas ma voix. Le français, c’est chez-moi. C’est ma langue, pour moi, une langue plus élégante. »

Dans ses œuvres, elle écrit souvent au sujet des artistes. « L’artiste m’intéresse. Leur raison d’être est évidente. »

Écrire c’est un privilège, dit-elle.

« J’ai eu tellement d’appui pour faire ce que je fais. Je me compte vraiment chanceuse de faire ce que j’aime. »

« Il découvre que pour les femmes, ça n’a pas de bon sens. Les hommes peuvent être des cochons. » CHAPUT

EN FRANÇAIS

AMIK AIME L'ÉCOLE

Katherena Vermette,

illustrations de Irene Kuzi

Amik raconte à Moshoom pourquoi il aime tant sa merveilleuse école. Puis c'est au tour de son grand-père de lui décrire le pensionnat autochtone qu'il a fréquenté, si différent de l'école d'Amik. C'est alors qu'Amik a une idée... Amik tells Moshoom about his wonderful school. Then his grandfather tells him about the residential school he went to, much different from Amik's school. So Amik has an idea... (Éditions des Plaines, Premières Nations, Album jeunesse, 9,95 \$ lc, 24 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-686-7)

LES CARNETS DE MYTHOLOGIES APPLIQUÉES : PREMIER CARNET : L'ENFANT ROUGE

Bertrand Nayet

Carnets d'une grande richesse de tons, de thèmes et de références, ici le premier, celui des vies d'avant, les vies des mythes qui nous servent de destins. Literally, The Applied Mythology Notebooks, this collection of notebooks is rich in tones, themes, and references. The first book, L'enfant rouge, addresses the lives that came before, the lives of the myths that foretell destiny. (Éditions du Blé, Poésie, 17,95 \$ papier, 156 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924378-91-5)

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Diane Freynet Therrien,

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(Éditions des Plaines, Album jeunesse, 11,95 \$ lc, 32 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-619-5)

LE JOURNAL D'ÉTIENNE MERCIER

David Bouchard, illustrations

de Gordon Miller

En l'an 1853, Étienne Mercier, voyageur et artiste-peintre canadien français, est chargé par son employeur de retourner aux îles de la Reine Charlotte afin d'y documenter ses voyages au plein cœur des territoires Haida. In 1853, Étienne Mercier, a French-Canadian voyageur painter, is tasked by his employer to return to the Queen Charlotte Islands and document his travels into Haida territory.

(Vidacom Publications, Fiction, 19,95 \$ lc, 40 pages, ISBN : 978-1-988182-65-0)

LUCY JOUE AU HOCKEY

Lisa Bowes, illustrations de James Hearne, traduit de l'anglais par Rachel Martinez

Dans le dernier livre de la série Lucy Tries Sports, Lucy s'inscrit à un cours d'initiation au hockey. Ses amis et elle apprennent des techniques de base et s'amuse sur la glace. In this latest Lucy Tries Sports title, Lucy enrolls in an introductory hockey clinic where she and her friends learn basic hockey skills and have fun on the ice. (Orca Book Publishers, Album jeunesse, 12,95 \$ pb, 32 pages, ISBN : 978-1-4598-2003-6)

SI LA PRINCESSE VENAIT DINER

Monique LaCoste, illustrations d'Alexis Flower

Lorsque Samuel et Maxime passent à table, ces deux petits garçons pourtant si mignons deviennent de vrais sauvages! Où sont passées les bonnes manières? Si la princesse venait dîner, elle serait tout simplement choquée! Est-ce une façon de se comporter? When Samuel and Maxime sit down at the dinner table, those two little boys, as cute as they may be, become real hellions! What ever happened to etiquette? If the princess were to come over for dinner, she would be absolutely shocked! Is that any way to behave? (Éditions des Plaines, Album jeunesse, 12,95 \$ papier, 32 pages, ISBN : 978-2-89611-653-9)

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Red River 1870s (beaded map) by David Garneau (2006); collection of the Murray Library, University of Saskatchewan

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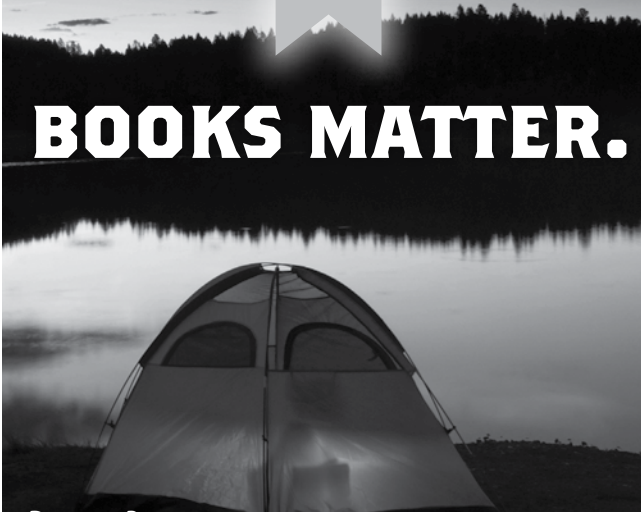


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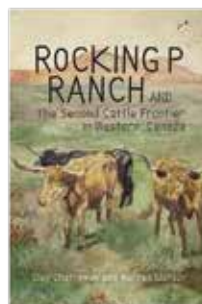


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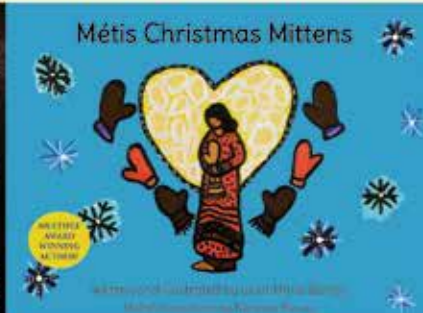
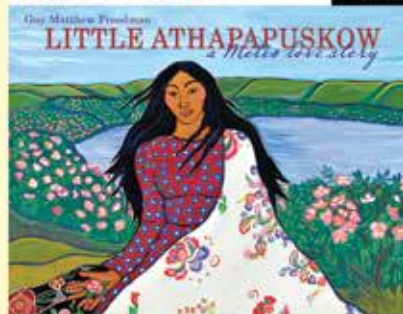
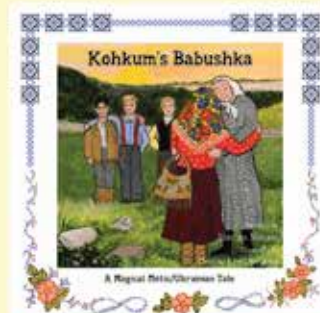


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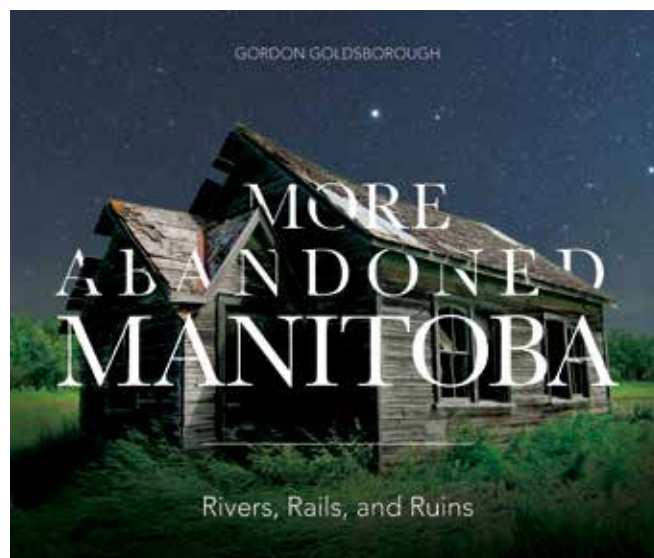
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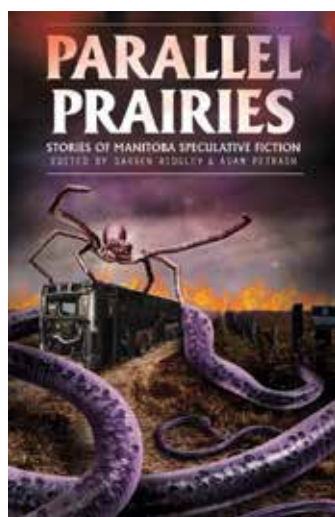
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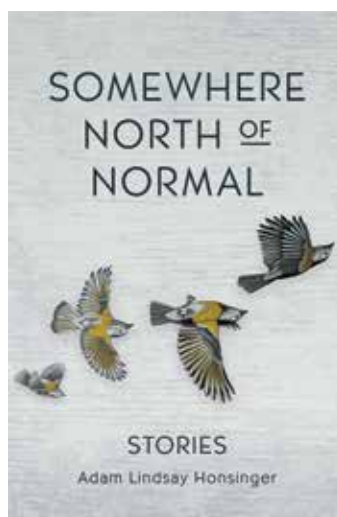
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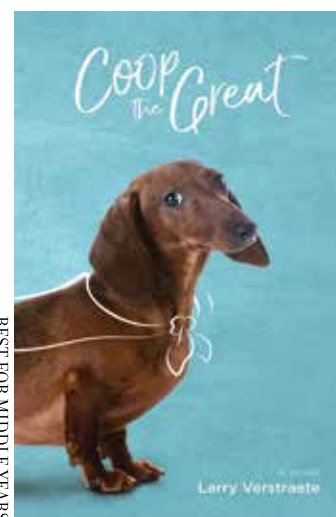
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