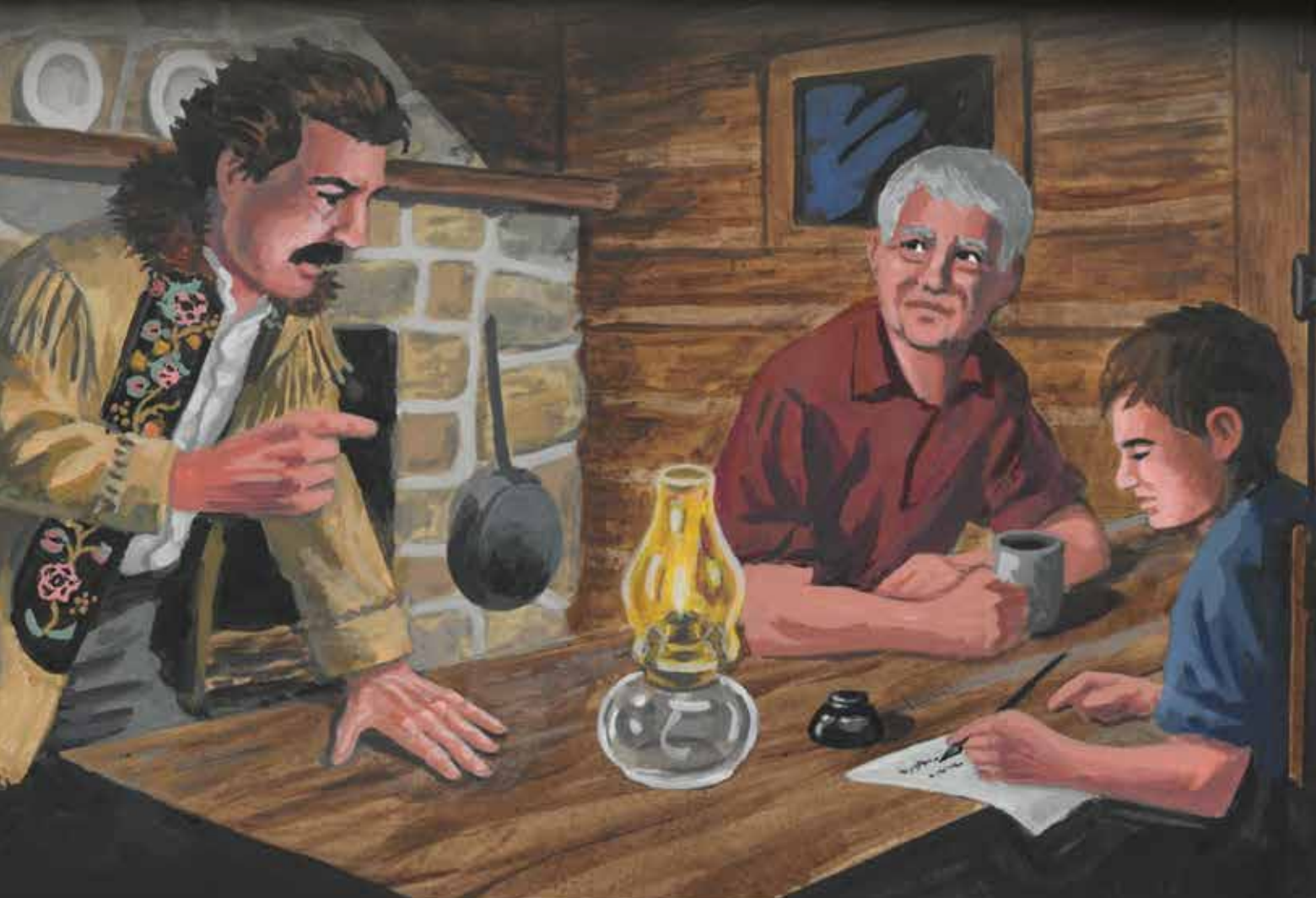


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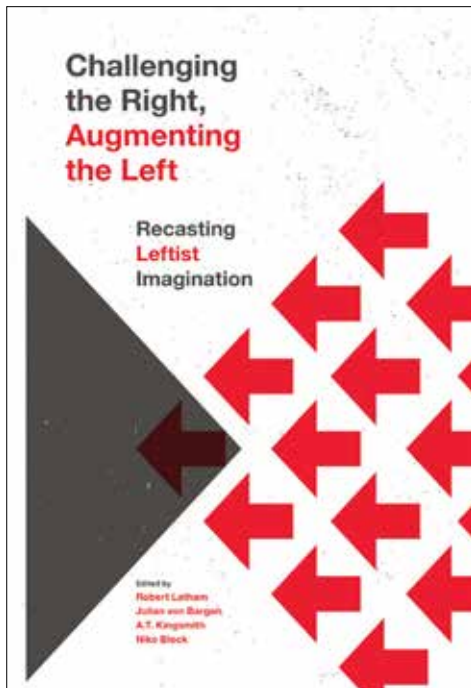
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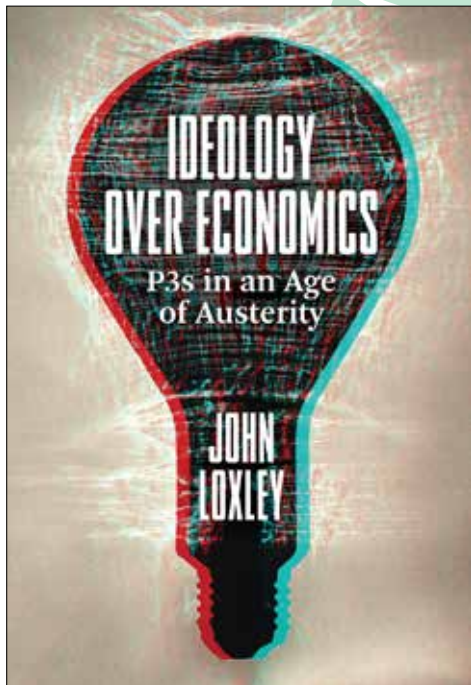
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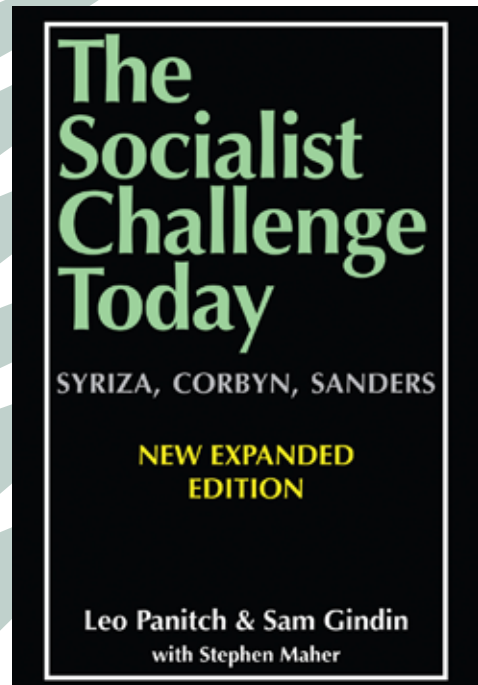
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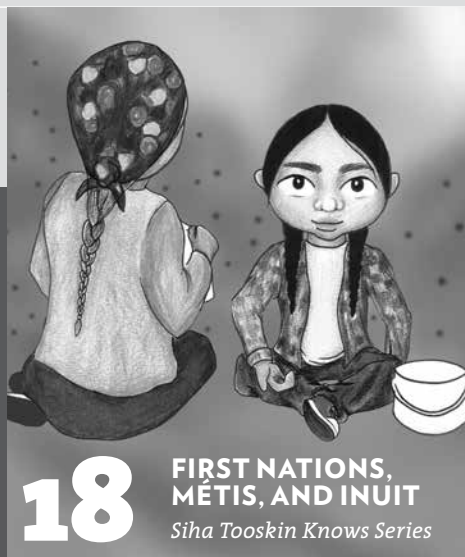
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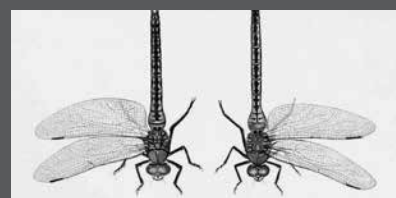
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Dystopian tale takes on climate change, but is primarily about family

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by Margaret Anne Fehr

WATERSHED

Doreen Vanderstoop

Freehand Books

\$22.95 pb, 360 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988298-59-7

W*atershed* has been a work in progress for over 10 years, says Calgary-based author Doreen Vanderstoop.

"After working on the novel on and off for a few years, I read about Margaret Atwood's comments at a high school literary festival. She reminded everyone of the warnings issued by Al Gore and Stephen Harper's refusal to sign the Helsinki agreement to limit carbon output. Atwood asked, 'Where are all the Canadian writers who should be addressing the greatest crisis of our age?' Her comment was the clarion call I needed to take up *Watershed* in earnest," explains Vanderstoop.

The novel is set in a dystopian future in the year 2058 in Alberta where water has replaced oil as the most vital global commodity. Vanderstoop describes a farming environment that has been severely affected as glaciers melt and the Bow and Elbow rivers have run dry.

"The story concept was motivated by my lifelong sympathy for farmers," she says. "Perhaps that sounds unusual since I've lived in cities all my life, but I remember even as a child, listening to weather reports in the spring and hoping there would be just enough rain and sun for our Alberta farmers to successfully grow their crops."

Vanderstoop shares that the principal character, Willa Van Bruggen, a tall, strong-willed Dutch woman, came to her almost fully formed, but she relied on "extensive research from other writers to help me formulate the climate change scenario that forms the backdrop of the story."

Climate change is a hot topic, and Vanderstoop's publisher has been getting requests from librarians for advance reading copies of the book. Vanderstoop

hopes that the novel will be of interest to a wide readership, including cli-fi aficionados and environmentalists, as well as readers of thrillers and family sagas.

"*Watershed* is chiefly a book about family, but it would be very gratifying if this story helped build some urgency into people's discussions around climate change. I loved connecting with my own Dutch roots (I immigrated with my family from the Netherlands in 1968), so if others were sparked to connect with their own cultural heritage, that would be awesome too."

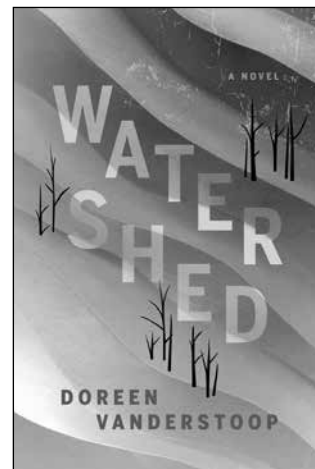
Vanderstoop acknowledges that the novel presents a fairly grim vision of a not-too-distant future.

"Unfortunately, many aspects in *Watershed* are based in reasonable probability. I am hoping my accelerated timing is off, but there's even no guarantee of that. This is serious stuff. However, I am a novelist, not a scientist, and so I don't pretend to know when the glaciers will be gone or when our thirst for oil will run its course."

Watershed is not a political or scientific treatise. "Ultimately, this is a novel about

family, the conflicting ambitions between a mother and her son, who goes to work for the pipeline corporation instead of returning to help the family business, and the strain cataclysmic climate change could place on family dynamics," says Vanderstoop.

"I believe the greatest source of hope in any crisis is our ability to make difficult decisions, listen openly to each other's truth, and adapt courageously to change. In short, our resilience will save us." 🌱



Doreen Vanderstoop

COURTNEY BARR

Crime novel explores ‘how style and bombast trumps substance and truth’

Brad Smith treads carefully around sensitive subject of school shootings

by Ian Goodwillie

THE GOLIATH RUN

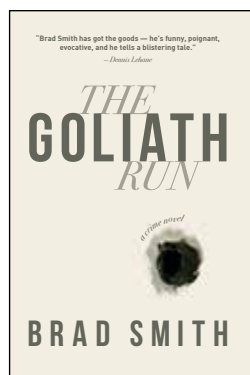
Brad Smith

At Bay Press

\$28.95 hc, 328 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988168-21-0

Trying to build a fictitious story out of something horrible that happens all too often in real life can be challenging at best. Similar to Douglas Coupland’s 2003 novel, *Hey Nostradamus!*, the inciting incident in Brad Smith’s *The Goliath Run* is a fictional school shooting. But when Coupland wrote his book, school shootings were a much less frequent occurrence than they are these days.



In *The Goliath Run*, a very disturbed man with a gun kills 22 children, two teachers, and himself in a Pennsylvania schoolyard. A right-wing TV host named Sam Jackson seizes the moment to resuscitate his dying ratings and build a political career out of it. Jackson gains from the incredible loss. Jo Matheson isn’t as lucky.

Jo loses her eight-year-old goddaughter in the shooting. Infuriated by watching Jackson blame the parents for their kids’

deaths and profit from it, Jo retaliates, committing her own serious crime, which may just make things much worse.

When asked why he chose a school shooting, Smith said, “I needed something big to justify Jo’s actions. And there’s no bigger issue than school shootings, particularly given the reluctance of certain legislators to address gun control.”

But Smith also had to be careful with such a sensitive topic. “I had to tread lightly around the actual shooting, as it was painful even to write about. I didn’t want to sensationalize it for the sake of writing a book. However, it’s not something

that should be swept beneath the rug just because it’s such an uncomfortable subject.”

The story is somewhat political in nature, as well, due in no small part to Sam Jackson using his newfound popularity to run for public office. Smith says, “It’s political in the sense that it addresses how style and bombast trumps substance and truth in the modern world. People get their news from sound bites and tweets.”

But is Jackson based on any specific politician or infotainment journalist? Not really, says Smith, who lives in southern Ontario.

“People assume he’s based on a certain president, but in fact he’s more of a composite of several talking heads from right-wing TV – ‘celebrities’ who use their soapbox (and lies) to sway public opinion ... and line their own pockets.”

He also describes Jackson as “an empty shell – vain, insecure, cruel, a man who cares only for himself.” There’s not a lot of chance for redemption for him, though there is possibly more opportunity for Jo.

At the root of *The Goliath Run* is the idea that “spreading falsehoods is a big business these days,” as Smith puts it. This is especially true when you talk about school shootings, which are “rampant and getting more frequent every day.” But there is hope in the conversation.

For Smith, this inciting incident was important, as he believes open discussion is the key to healing wounds and building bridges that will assist in preventing real-life shootings from happening again.

“Sunlight is the best disinfectant,” he says. ☘



“It’s political in the sense that it addresses how style and bombast trumps substance and truth in the modern world. People get their news from sound bites and tweets.”

BRAD SMITH

Stories of doubt, faith, grace, and the grey areas in between

David Bergen's short story collection is hard-hitting and haunting

by Margaret Goldik



HERE THE DARK

David Bergen

Biblioasis (biblioasis.com)

\$22.95 pb, 224 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77196-321-3

Available as an ebook

Winnipeg-based David Bergen's *Here the Dark* is a collection of short stories and a novella, breathtaking and stop-you-in-your-tracks good. The settings range from the Prairies, to Honduras, to Vietnam, but the themes are a bit more fixed – good and evil, doubt and faith, and the grey areas in between.

In “Man Lost,” a fisherman had the means, motive, and opportunity to murder a threatening American client, but did not do so.

“This character was based on a fishing guide I met in Roatan. He was laconic, taciturn, and seemed very comfortable with himself. I imagined that a lifetime of fishing and waiting and patience would prepare Quinn (the protagonist) very well for a man like K.” Bergen says. “Two different worlds collide, and the world of money has no purchase when pitted against nature.”

The character in the opening story, “April in Snow Lake,” learns a much

needed lesson by getting lost. And “How Can *n* Men Share a Bottle of Vodka?” leaves the reader both hopeful and fearful of the path the protagonist has chosen.

The other stories are equally ambiguous, with a large sense of moral quandary. There is also a lingering sense for the reader of wondering what happens next.

“The great thing (and the most difficult thing) about a short story is the limitations placed on it,” says Bergen. “There is only so much space. A story dictates its ending and its form.”

He notes that Nabokov said of “Lady with a Lapdog” that Chekhov enters the story “without knocking.”

“This is crucial for a short story,” says Bergen. “Enter without knocking, don’t stay too long, and let the reader work out the complexities of what might happen after the story is done.”

The novella, “Here the Dark,” tells of a young woman who rejects the rules of her closed community. It was originally supposed to be a novel, but Bergen showed it to an editor he trusted who said that it didn’t work as it was.

“And so,” he says, “I let it sit, and then came back to it, and I chopped off the 100 pages at the end. This seemed to work better, in that the tone was now consistent

“Two different worlds collide, and the world of money has no purchase when pitted against nature.” DAVID BERGEN

and the voice was purely Lily’s and the narrator was no longer interfering in the story.

“After my editing, the ending to the novella became more uncertain and open-ended, and this made sense, given that Lily has been raised in a community where certainty is everything, and there is no room for doubt or questions. Does she still leave, does she stay?”

In the collection, there is more than one story that mentions choice, specifically not having learned *how* to choose. “Education is huge. Doubt comes from *duo*, and if suddenly you have two options, then all certainty is gone,” says Bergen.

“Do we have to learn how to choose? I think we are always working this out. In our relationships, with family, children, friends – an awareness of what we are doing and why we are doing it is a sign of a healthy mind.” 🌿



Short story collection revolves around loss and wanting

Traci Skuce explains how she gravitates toward ‘under-acknowledged’ emotions

by Laura Kupcis

HUNGER MOON

Traci Skuce

NeWest Press

\$19.95 pb, 184 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988732-80-0

Available as an ebook

British Columbia-based Traci Skuce’s debut collection of short stories, *Hunger Moon*, portrays a variety of characters who are spiritually hungry and wanting more from their lives, though often unsure of what.

The author is a self-professed “sucker for the moon,” for how elemental and basic it is to our earthly experience. The full moon of February – known as the hunger moon – occurs when pantries are traditionally bare, vagrants rob the henhouse, and everyone is just a little hungry all the time. It’s

a fitting symbol for this collection full of longing, missed steps, and unrealized dreams.

In these 13 well-crafted stories, readers will meet a bullied girl whose young sister is her only protector, two backpackers who have hiked off the beaten path under the hot sun completely unequipped, a youth on the cusp of manhood, a teenager desperate for the attention of her school crush sending her deepest desires into a mystical pink bubble, and a few exhausted mothers.

Skuce didn’t intentionally choose an overarching theme for her collection; it is either something she gravitates toward or it gravitates toward her, she explains.

“Loss interests me because life is inherently filled with loss, and it’s so under-acknowledged in our culture,” she says. “In my family, growing up, I always felt loss acutely, whether in friendships or leaving a place or whatever. And my father couldn’t abide it. His motto was ‘Seize the day!’ and he

believed in staying upbeat, and that never felt real for me. I suppose some of these stories are a response to that.”

As a new mother herself, she says she felt conflicted – as do the new mothers in her short stories. She loved her son deeply, but at the same time felt burnt out and frustrated that she was not able to pursue her life in the way she had always imagined.

“That interests me a lot in characters, the life they want, or believe they should have, and the one they actually get. And then the kind of spiritual crisis that’s born out of that,” Skuce says.

While the short stories were written while Skuce was completing her MFA program, or shortly thereafter, a number of the characters have been around for decades, waiting for Skuce to determine their fate.

“The inspiration came from all sorts of places: my experiences as a young mother, images, voices,” Skuce says. “I doggedly followed those ideas in my writing practice until they coalesced and formed full-fledged narratives.”

The stories have elements of Skuce’s “real life” in them – her thoughts, beliefs, memories, certain incidents – but they are entirely fiction.

In “Intruder,” the main event came from the news, though she built the world around it. A snake and house inspired “Bliss and a Boy I Once Loved,” but the relationships are entirely fiction.

“When you’re writing fiction,” Skuce says, “you let go of what happened in real life and stay true to the story, to the characters on the page, who are definitely not me.”



Traci Skuce

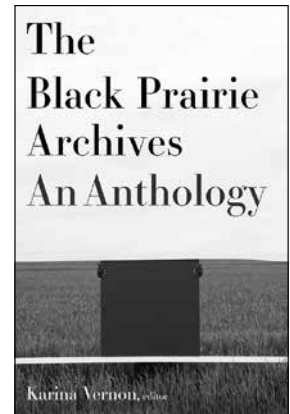


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Establishing a Black Prairie literature tradition, starting with a paddler from 1873

Anthology moves from never-published 19th-century work to more contemporary forms

by Paula E. Kirman



THE BLACK PRAIRIE ARCHIVES:

An Anthology

Edited by Karina Vernon

Wilfrid Laurier University Press

\$44.99 pb, 580 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77112-374-7

Available as an ebook

The literary tradition of the Prairies – at least, the way it has often been presented in popular culture and in classrooms – has typically not included Black writers or histories. *The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology* radically transforms what Prairie literature looks and sounds like, and establishes a Black Prairie literary tradition.

Edited by Karina Vernon, associate professor and associate chair in English and graduate studies at the University of Toronto, the book includes the writings of 19th-century Black fur traders and pioneers (published for the first time) along with contemporary writing in genres as diverse as letters, recipes, oral literature, autobiographies, rap, fiction, and poetry.



Karina Vernon

Vernon explains that the idea for the project was sparked by a chance encounter she had in the library.

“I came upon a 19th-century travelogue that described a Black paddler named Daniel Williams canoeing down the North Saskatchewan River in 1873. It turned out that Williams kept a diary and wrote at least one letter that survived. I wondered if there might be more.”

This sent her on a research journey across the Prairies to municipal and provincial archives looking for “anything I could find written by people who may

or may not have identified as ‘Black,’ as ‘Prairie people,’ or even as ‘writers,’ ” she says. “What I uncovered was a substantial archive of writing that spans 1872 to the present.”

It took 15 years for the project to reach completion. The assistance and the permission of the authors, their families, and communities were central.

“I was fortunate to have been assisted by some wonderful archivists and community knowledge keepers who guided my research, told me about writers and Black Prairie communities that I was unaware of, and who generously helped me with the permissions process,” says Vernon.

“Knowledge of Black Prairie history and culture has been kept alive largely by the Prairies’ matriarchs: Velma Carter, Wanda Leffler Akili, Gwen Hooks, Cheryl Foggo, Junetta Jamerson, and Crystal Mayes, among others.”

In the process, Vernon learned about what a Black archive really is. “As I say in the book, this archive isn’t Black by virtue of the fact that I as editor am Black, or that the authors included identify as people of the African diaspora. It is ‘Black’ by virtue of the reciprocal relationships, trust, and permission that enabled the archive to come into public being.”

In addition to the works themselves, the book includes introductory notes about each writer and notes to help readers engage with the literature. “I hope the readers will understand that the Prairies is a Black space – it is connected to the Black Atlantic world and has been since the beginning of the period of non-Indigenous arrival,” says Vernon.

“And I hope readers will appreciate the incredible richness and diversity of Black cultural expression in this region. The archive includes letters, memoir, rap, political speeches, sermons, page poetry and slam poetry, essays, sports writing, magic realism, and science fiction.”

Vernon also hopes to hear from readers. “I’m very interested to know how readers engage with the stories and to hear how their understandings of the Prairies – its literature, history, and culture – transform in light of the Black Prairie archive.” 🌿

Debut poetry collection considers transitions under the Prairie sky

Sarah Ens aims to show 'female friendships and Prairie places in a truthful way'

by melanie brannagan frederiksen

THE WORLD IS MOSTLY SKY

Sarah Ens

Turnstone Press

\$17.00 pb, 128 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88801-705-5



Sarah Ens

the dangerous as opposed to the vulnerable. The poem suggests that the movement from childhood to adulthood is about learning to renegotiate what you hold onto as certain or eternal."

Many of the poems in *The World Is Mostly Sky* treat the losses and heartbreak involved in coming of age in tandem with environmental degradation and the collapse of ecosystems.

"I think when you develop a close relationship with a place, a non-human place, the death of a robin, the disappearance of a butterfly species, the destruction of tall grass prairie ecosystems due to the construction of condominiums – these losses, these catastrophes, are not at all disparate from personal heartbreak," says Ens, who is currently doing graduate work at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Ens's artistic project draws attention to vital stories that are often overlooked and underestimated.

"I think many people still underestimate Prairie stories and Prairie landscapes. Society also tends to underestimate girls and young women," she says.

"It would be exciting for me if people read *The World Is Mostly Sky* and felt that I had articulated female friendships and Prairie places in a truthful way – that it's clear how vital I believe, as a person and artist, those relationships and spaces to be." 🌿

Sarah Ens's first collection of poetry, *The World Is Mostly Sky*, is a closely observed exploration of her rural Prairie roots, as well as the landscape's – and the sky's – changing physical and emotional resonances.

"I think that the sky above the Prairie town where I grew up – Landmark, Manitoba – defined how I understood myself and my life, both in an expansive, dreamy, endless-possibility kind of way and in a sort of remember-your-own-insignificance kind of way," Ens says.

"I was raised within the Mennonite faith and understood God as the infinite sky moving over wide-open fields and farmland. A sky so big it must be heaven. A sky that surveils you."

The sky's defining expansiveness and permanence are balanced by the energy Ens infuses into her exploration of in-between times, like the cusp between childhood and adolescence. "I'm drawn to writing about

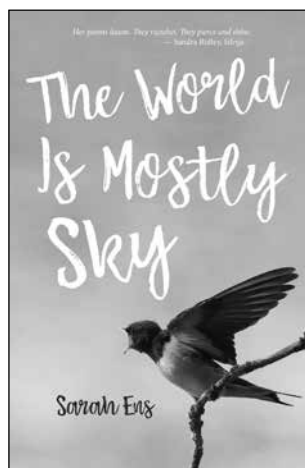
transitions," she says, "because they're periods of learning and becoming but also great loss.

"Maybe *The World Is Mostly Sky* is a way to mourn and celebrate old shapes, the selves shed."

These moments of transition are all the more powerful when she draws on her community, especially her celebration of her siblings and female friendships.

"I'm also really interested in the importance of community during life transitions. The exploring/angst-ing/longing my friends and I did at 14 was a communal kind of shape-shifting. We tried not to leave each other behind and developed deeply shared identities. I do think there's something sacred about that temporary adolescent shared space," Ens says.

Coming of age and the celebration of community necessitate re-evaluation of previously accepted truths. The poem "Os Justi," Ens says, considers "the instant when a place you believed to be safe and secure reveals itself to be dangerous, or to harbour



Committing to writing meant committing to a place – and then leaving it

Joel Robert Ferguson's winding road to writing involved accepting imperfection

by Ariel Gordon

THE LOST CAFETERIA

Joel Robert Ferguson

Signature Editions

\$17.95 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1-773240-64-0

Joel Robert Ferguson took a somewhat circuitous route to publishing his debut poetry collection, *The Lost Cafeteria*.

Ferguson was raised in a conservative Christian home in rural Nova Scotia but spent his 20s enmeshed in what he calls the “anarcho-punk/traveller milieu.”

That meant roaming from Whitehorse to Guelph, from Halifax to the southern Okanagan, hitchhiking and train-hopping, and living in shared housing and punk houses.

“Travelling definitely was a type of home for much of my 20s,” Ferguson says. “It felt fantastic to have my life and belongings condensed down to the rucksack on my back and a sturdy pair of shoes; it felt as though I was existing in the world with much fewer illusions about my place within it and the precarity and preciousness of being alive and healthy.”

After nearly a decade of this life, Ferguson found himself committing to living in Winnipeg, to writing poetry.

“I spent my 20s reading non-stop, but also there was this feeling that it was something that I myself could never write,” Ferguson says. “I worked a lot of seasonal or dead-end jobs around the country, which was alright for a while, but by the time I was staring down 30 had become stultifying.

“Writing poetry became a sort of escape hatch, both in an immediate, day-to-day sense, but also in terms of finding a sense of self-worth, proving to myself I wasn’t just this schlubby guy pushing a mop (after all, nobody who works in a socially belittled or maligned job is just that job or role).”

Committing to poetry meant a committing to a daily writing practice, trying new forms and subjects, and becoming a part of the writing and publishing community.

“For me, getting serious about poetry meant editing, editing, and more editing, and working to get over the feeling that, though I loved reading poetry, it was something that I couldn’t do, or rather that I didn’t have anything worth saying,” Ferguson says. “It was a matter of accepting that maybe I would never write the perfect poem (whatever that may be), but to always be trying to improve.”

What emerged was what Ferguson describes as “millennial coming-of-age” poetry, influenced by the work



Joel Robert Ferguson

of Seamus Heaney, George Oppen, and Roberto Bolaño.

“I think that for many millennials there’s a real struggle in how we perceive ourselves..., with the post-war markers of adulthood (career, home ownership, etc.) no longer being hegemonic, of being stuck in limbo between childhood and adulthood, expectation and reality,” says Ferguson.

Ironically, his commitment to a place and a vocation led to Ferguson leaving Winnipeg, for a creative writing master’s degree at Concordia University. His thesis ended up being the collection of lyric poetry that is now *The Lost Cafeteria*.

“I’m hoping that this book will be enjoyed by people who are already big readers of poetry, but also those who might have some biases against the genre on the basis of it being seen as inaccessible,” says Ferguson.

“My hope is that the work here can be sometimes challenging but never antagonistic to that sort of reader; though, don’t get me wrong, I love me some dense, theoretical poetry as well!”



Poet reflects on her grandparents' lives through poetry and collected letters, artifacts

Angeline Schellenberg explores how famine, war, loss shaped her loved ones

by Kyla Neufeld

FIELDS OF LIGHT AND STONE

Angeline Schellenberg

University of Alberta Press

\$19.99 pb, 104 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77212-511-5

Available as an ebook

Faith, love, death, displacement – these are the themes Angeline Schellenberg tackles in her new collection of poetry, *Fields of Light and Stone*.

These poems tell the stories of her grandparents – Abe and Margaret, and Bernhard and Elsa – with whom Schellenberg was especially close as a child.

“I grew up next door to my dad’s parents; Oma and Opa helped raise me. When everyone else was busy

working on the farm, my arthritic Oma could be found in her chair, ready to tell a story to the girl crying over a malicious clarinet or bicycle. And I was my Opa’s ‘Rosebud’; he made me feel precious,” says Schellenberg, who now lives in Winnipeg.

“On my mom’s side, we made the three-hour drive to my grandparents often. Grandpa was a preacher, who (unlike some of my Sunday school teachers) enjoyed my theological interrogations.”

It was because of this close connection that Schellenberg wanted to explore and write about her grandparents’ lives. She used a variety of sources: old pocket calendars, sermon notes, memoirs, and funeral tapes.

“I wanted to imagine how my grandparents’ early experiences – famine, war, loss, abuse, displacement – shaped them into the unbreakable characters I knew, and then how those last holy and agonizing weeks softened them into something more transparent. And, in turn,

I wanted to reflect on how their lives and deaths shaped me,” says Schellenberg.

Going through her grandparents’ old materials was a precious experience, especially when it came to reading their love letters. “They sounded like themselves – Grandpa, eloquent and proper; Grandma, playful and considerate – but both more affectionate than they ever were in public,” she says.

These love letters are interspersed throughout the collection to create an “Aha, this again!” experience for readers, but they have also been rearranged so that they don’t respond to the same things they did in the originals.

“When Margaret talks about her father seeking Abe’s release, she meant from CO [conscientious objector] service, but by placing this in the context of Abe’s words about never wanting to let her go, ‘release’ takes on a broader meaning. I did this both to play up their character and to protect their privacy.”

For Schellenberg, the loss of her grandparents was monumental. “When I was 24, [Grandpa’s] death was my first experience of personal loss. Other people wondered at my level of grief and, for the first time, I realized that not everyone is as connected with their grandparents as I was,” she says.

“For the last decade of her life, Grandma moved nearby and became like a second mother. When she died in 2009, it felt like the last of four support beams was knocked out from under me.”

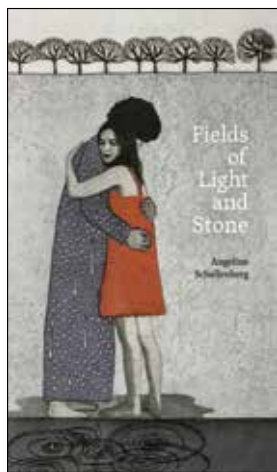
At its core, Schellenberg’s collection is a love letter to these four people whose lives were so completely intertwined with hers.

“In a hospital bed,” she says, “there’s nothing to do but what was essential all along: to be present to one another. I didn’t ever want to forget those moments.” 🌿



Angeline Schellenberg

ANTHONY MARK PHOTOGRAPHY



MORE POETRY

BIRDING IN THE GLASS AGE OF ISOLATION

Curtis LeBlanc

These poems explore memories, experiences, symptoms, and relationships through the lens of mental illness, specifically OCD and hallucinogen persisting perception disorder, in images of fire and ice, flight and falling, physical labour and mortality, destruction and creation.

(Nightwood Editions, \$18.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88971-368-0)

ENDLINGS

Joanna Lilley

These lyrical and melancholic poems tell the stories of “endlings,” the last individuals of a species, sometimes in their voices, sometimes in the words of official reports, and sometimes from the perspective of those who loved them and those who killed them, exposing the brutality of Nature and the devastation of human ignorance, carelessness, and intent. (Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 166 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-689-8)

GHOSTS STILL LINGER

Kat Cameron

These poems explore the past and present of the Prairies with wit and irony, juxtaposing contemporary responses to grief and environmental issues with stories of historical figures like Buffalo Bill Cody and Annie Oakley. Cameron reflects on her own struggles with sorrow while drawing attention to the unsung women of the West.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-509-2, available as ebook)

I AM STILL YOUR NEGRO: AN HOMAGE TO JAMES BALDWIN

Valerie Mason-John

Mason-John, also known as Queenie, tells truths about the impacts of slavery, racism, colonization, sexism, and homophobia, bringing wisdom and historical perspective to stories of entrapment, sexual assault, addictive behaviours, and rave culture in this collection of social

justice poetic narratives, spoken word pieces, and traditional poetic forms such as villanelles, haiku, and sonnets.

(University of Alberta Press, \$19.99 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-510-8, available as ebook)

LULLABIES IN THE REAL WORLD

Meredith Quartermain

This sequence of poems about a train journey from West Coast to East Coast is both playful and confrontational, as the poet enters into dialogue with other poets such as bpNichol and Robin Blaser, challenges canonical literature by parodying such figures as Homer and Shakespeare, and recontextualizes events in colonial history and their representations in art and literature.

(NeWest Press, \$18.95 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988732-78-7)

LUNATIC ENGINE

Paul Pearson

Joining in a dialogue about science and religion that Galileo and his daughter, Suor Marie Celeste, took part in, these poems respond to the life of the “first modern man” and his illegitimate daughter, who were both confined and limited by the Church, and ask the big questions about what we value, what we strive for, and what he will tell his own children about the nature of science, religion, and life.

(Turnstone Press, \$17.00 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88801-693-5)

THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

Ken Hunt

This collection traces the military, cultural, and scientific history of the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear power through searing lyric, procedural, and visual poetry, considering contemporary life in the nuclear age broadly and deeply. The poems move through liminal zones between routine and disaster, life and death, creation and destruction.

(University of Calgary Press, \$18.99 pb, 144 pages, with illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-77385-054-2, available as ebook)

THE NEGATION OF CHRONOLOGY: IMAGINING GERALDINE MOODIE

Rebecca Luce-Kapler

These poems trace the life of Geraldine Moodie, granddaughter of Susanna Moodie and the first woman to own photography studios on the Prairies. Using Moodie's photographs and biographical details from letters, newspapers, and family interviews, Luce-Kapler imagines how Moodie came to own three studios, raise six children, and follow her husband across the Prairies, all while creating her art.

(Inanna Publications, \$18.95 pb, 100 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77133-769-4)

THE RESPONSE OF WEEDS: A MISPLACEMENT OF BLACK POETRY ON THE PRAIRIES

Bertrand Bickersteth

These poems grapple with, as the poet says, “history, race, place, and words themselves.” Bickersteth sings the blues, names the rivers, looks at the fields in all their flatness, and replants cultural icons such as Clark Kent, Christopher Columbus, Louis Armstrong, Ralph Ellison, and Hattie McDaniel on the Prairies.

(NeWest Press, \$18.95 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988732-79-4)

TABLET FRAGMENTS

Tamar Rubin

Rubin, in her debut collection, uses biblical and medical language to explore her identities: outsider and insider; Canadian and immigrant; doctor and patient; wife and individual; child and would-be mother. The poems explore the impact of migration, the evolution of relationships, and the fragility of religious faith and scientific fact.

(Signature Editions, \$17.95 pb, 96 pages, ISBN: 978-1-773240-65-7)

25: HOCKEY POEMS, NEW AND REVISED

Richard Harrison

This collection of hockey poems, including versions of those from the 25-year-old book, *Hero of the Play*, explores the complexities of life: relationships, rivalries, old stories, travel connections, grief, intimacy, love, and poetry.

(Wolsak & Wynn, \$18.00 pb, 88 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989496-06-0)

One-act play is based on Lara Rae's life and transition, with some details changed

'We were more interested in things being true as opposed to factual'

by Luis Reis

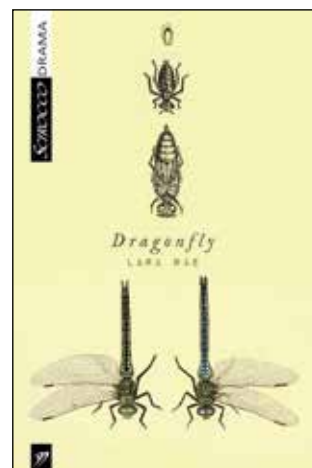
DRAGONFLY

Lara Rae

Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing

\$15.95 pb, 80 pages

ISBN: 978-1-927922-59-0



In the foreword to Lara Rae's play *Dragonfly*, actor and playwright Brian Drader describes how, as Rae's dramaturg, his most compelling memories are "witnessing the constant ebb and flow of a storyteller wrestling with their own life's experiences and placing them into dramatic form."

This one-act play of transformation turns Rae's specific journey as a transgender woman into compelling and mind-expanding art.

Lara Rae thought carefully when choosing the title of her play.

"Dragonflies, like butterflies, are symbols of transformation in many cultures," she says, adding that dragonflies are the more interesting of the two.

"They spend most of their lives underwater as tiny nymphs – a very apt metaphor for being a trans kid: small and in the dark and claustrophobic. They shed their nymph skin, never fully going through a juvenile 'puberty,' and burst forth as these remarkable and

beautiful creatures, fully adult, who then soar," Rae says.

"This part of their lives is short-lived. I think those of us who transition at the half-century mark can relate."

Originally, the play was produced

as a one-actor play, where a woman told the story of someone socialized as male. Rae explains how she and Ardith Boxall at Theatre Projects Manitoba decided to present the story with two voices, named They and Them, removing gender from

the equation and conveying "the central idea that our insides do not reflect our outsides in myriad ways," she says.

"The one thing I am emphatic about is that the lines are not

gendered. One actor is not me as a boy and the other as a girl. I wanted to write something anyone could do – be they enbee [non-binary], trans, cis[gender], able, disabled, and of any age or ethnicity. Also, coming from radio, I like things that read well and that do not have a lot of stage directions."

The incidents in the play do not follow a strict chronological order, although Rae worked with Drader to make them cohere.

"The play comes in and out of my life and illuminates certain years of my life," she says. "If something important to the story actually happened a few months on the outside of those pages, we took the liberty of placing that event within that section. We were more interested in things being true as opposed to factual."

Although the play is based on her own life – and Rae was fine with it being very autobiographical when it was originally produced in her

"Dragonflies, like butterflies, are symbols of transformation in many cultures."

LARA RAE



home town of Winnipeg – now that it is in book form, some details have changed. Rae renamed the character who was assigned male at birth, calling him Adam.

“Now that it goes into the world,” she says, “I wanted the work less anchored to me. Adam is the first man, and means man, so he is everyman and no man. I never get too far from the Bible.”

Rae is very clear, however, that the play is not meant to be taken as universal.

“Any discussion of my transition is with the caveat that my experience is my own. There are as many ways of being trans as there are trans people,” she says, “although my way is, of course, the most awesome.”

“Any discussion of my transition is with the caveat that my experience is my own. There are as many ways of being trans as there are trans people, although my way is, of course, the most awesome.” LARA RAE

MORE DRAMA

LO (OR DEAR MR. WELLS)

Rose Napoli

As a 15-year-old, Laura was a dream student to her flailing English teacher, Alan Wells. Now at 25, she has written her first novel, called *Dear Mr. Wells*, and she wants him to be the first to read it. This coming-of-age story examines a formative relationship and the grey areas of consent.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-58-3)

THE ORCHARD (AFTER CHEKHOV)

Sarena Parmar

This adaptation of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* is told through the lens of a Punjabi-Sikh family in the Okanagan Valley, offering a subversive look at ethnicity within the classical western canon. Parmar, inspired by her childhood, confronts life, loss, and the Canadian immigrant experience with humour and beauty.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-60-6)

THE RUNNER

Christopher Morris

This powerful thriller explores the psyche of a noble man, Jacob, who, as a Z.A.K.A. volunteer, collects the remains of Jews killed in the streets of Israel, and who, one day, decides to treat a young Palestinian woman instead of the soldier she may have killed.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-57-6)

SOME BLOW FLUTES

Mary Vingoe

This story of Costas, an elderly Greek shoe repairman, and his wife Elena, who suffers from dementia, explores the friendship that develops between Costas and Sandra, a professional organizer. This friendship is complicated and past grievances brought out into the open when Sandra's estranged daughter Marijke meets Elena, forcing the characters to show compassion and seek redemption.

(Scirocco Drama-JGS Publishing, \$15.95 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927922-61-3)

SPEED DATING FOR SPERM DONORS

Natalie Meisner

Helen and Paige have decided to have a baby using a sperm donor, but not just any donor will do, since they want their child to know the father. Going through the fast-paced “dating” of several candidates, none of which is perfect, puts a strain on Helen and Paige's relationship.

(Playwrights Canada Press, \$17.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-082-5)

See prairiebooksnow.ca for more exclusive content from Prairie writers and publishers.

Fourth poetry collection honours intense suffering and immeasurable beauty

Randy Lundy reassures readers that despite darker moments, now he is okay

by Ariel Gordon

FIELD NOTES FOR THE SELF

Randy Lundy

University of Regina Press:

Oskana Poetry & Poetics

\$19.75 pb, 96 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88977-691-3

A member of the Barren Lands (Cree) First Nation, writer Randy Lundy is based in Pense, Saskatchewan.

This spring, Lundy is publishing his fourth collection of poetry, *Field Notes for the Self*, with the University of Regina Press's Oskana Poetry & Poetics series edited by Jan Zwicky.

The book marries a blue-collar aesthetic that would be familiar to readers of Patrick Lane's work with the teachings of Chan Buddhism.



Randy Lundy

"I like to think the poems are meditative, but that they also, at times, lift from the page like a tree pulling up its roots and sprouting wings in the place of leaves, under the influence of an overwhelming desire to take flight and follow the birds into the distances," says Lundy.

"The poems document, perhaps confront, suffering, but also, I hope, celebrate the beauty of this world of which we are such a small part. Both intense suffering and immense, immeasurable beauty are part of the

human experience, and both need to be acknowledged and honoured, in whatever ways each of us can do so."

Field Notes for the Self is Lundy's second collection with Oskana after 2018's *Blackbird Song*.

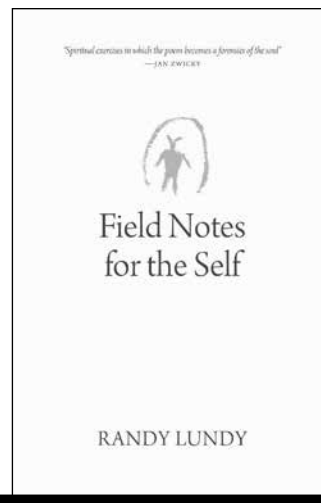
In keeping with Oskana's mandate "to speak to the deepest and most urgent issues of our time, including environmental crisis and Indigenous justice," *Field Notes* blends nature writing, metaphysics, and Lundy's Cree worldview.

"I hope the book says whatever the reader needs it to," Lundy says. "I will add that Jan has said more than once that it's a hard book, that particular poems are really hard, sometimes dark. I spent many years struggling with mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and addictions, so there's some of that in there."

"I do want the reader to know, however, that I am okay. Middle age has come as a blessing, and I am doing much better than I was for a very long time."

Having written four books of poetry, the biggest thing Lundy has learned is humility.

"Each time you sit down with a blank page in front of you, you don't know what's coming, what the adventure will be," Lundy says. "I think I've gotten more comfortable with my own voice, with the things I have to say and want to say, but, still, how one is going to get there, well, it's like following the track of an animal, or, from another perspective, being tracked by an animal. Maybe both those things simultaneously."



"Jan has said more than once that it's a hard book, that particular poems are really hard, sometimes dark."

RANDY LUNDY

While Lundy doesn't believe in rules, he has developed a set of best practices for his writing.

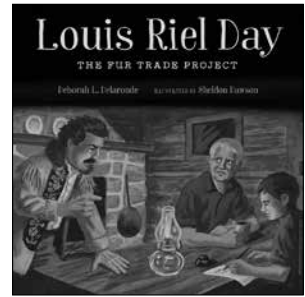
"Look closely, long and hard," Lundy says. "Inwardly and outwardly. Try to see what's there, then say that. Try not to lie, try not to bullshit. Try not to let ego get in the way, like it seems to in every other area of our lives."

"After reading *Blackbird Song*, Tim Lilburn told me there was no bullshit there. Best review I've had! Hopefully, *Field Notes* measures up to that standard." 🌿

Relationship between boy and his grandfather frames celebration of Métis history

'Hands-on' collaboration between author, publisher, illustrator yields a story that needs to be told

by Laura McKay



LOUIS RIEL DAY:

The Fur Trade Project

Deborah L. Delaronde, illustrated by Sheldon Dawson
Theytus Books
\$19.95 hc, 32 pages
ISBN: 978-1-926886-61-9

Anyone who has experienced social injustice would be drawn to those who stand up for what they believe. Louis Riel epitomizes this to the Métis people. It takes great courage to speak for people who can't speak for themselves," says Deborah L. Delaronde.

Her new book, *Louis Riel Day: The Fur Trade Project*, is a story about a homework project, but also a book written to inspire readers and celebrate Métis history.

"This is the one book that I will always be grateful that everything fell into place at the right time. It is a beautifully illustrated book. It contains the message that I wanted to impart to my readers about being proud of our Métis history rather than ashamed," explains Delaronde, who lives in central Manitoba.

Louis Riel Day follows a young Métis boy who has been assigned a homework project about Louis Riel Day. He's worried about getting it done, so he phones his grandfather to ask for help.

"I wanted to emphasize the relationship between a grandchild and his grandparent in this story," says Delaronde. "Due to job demands, parents and especially single parents can't always find time to help their children with homework. I know this because I was a single parent. And, it's so important for grandparents to be a part of their grandchildren's lives."



Deborah L. Delaronde

Winnipeg-based artist Sheldon Dawson illustrated this book, which includes detailed depictions of scenes from Métis history. Dawson gathered details from his own reference library, as well as from archival photographs, and even from a trip to the Manitoba Museum to look at a replica Red River cabin. Although he has illustrated over 45 books for children, *Louis Riel Day* is unique.

"The visual rhythm of this book is quite distinct from many others that I have worked on. Because this story spans several years and a variety of locations, it doesn't have the sort of sequential visual action from page to page that is common in other children's stories," he explains.

"Each painting ends up being more of a representation of a separate event or a time period than part of a dynamic flow of connected images."

The story's rhythm relies on Delaronde's poetic text to carry the reader from page to page.

Delaronde also felt that this book was unusual, although for her, it was more about her involvement once the manuscript was accepted. "I had more of a 'hands-on' collaboration from beginning to end with both Theytus and Sheldon [than with her previous books]. I will be eternally grateful that Greg Younging [former editor of Theytus Books] found and read my *Louis Riel Day: The Fur Trade Project* manuscript, liked it, and wanted to publish it," she says.

With this year marking Manitoba's 150th anniversary, this book is a well-timed reminder of the people who founded this province. According to Dawson, "This important story needs to be told, especially in this anniversary year when the Métis people are still struggling to obtain the rights that were promised to them 150 years ago." 🌿

Books originally written for their own children come to life more than 20 years later

Charlene and Wilson Bearhead saw the need for more Indigenous representation in children's books

Building, dancing, healing ... and so much more

by Shirley Byers

SIHA TOOSKIN KNOWS SERIES

Charlene Bearhead and Wilson Bearhead, illustrated by Chloe Bluebird Mustooch

HighWater Press-Portage & Main Press

\$11.95 pb

Ebooks are available

Siha Tooskin Knows the Best Medicine

24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-840-8

Siha Tooskin Knows the Catcher of Dreams

32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-832-3

Siha Tooskin Knows the Gifts of His People

24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-834-7

Siha Tooskin Knows the Love of the Dance

40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-852-1

Siha Tooskin Knows the Nature of Life

40 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-843-9

Siha Tooskin Knows the Offering of Tobacco

24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-846-0

Siha Tooskin Knows the Sacred Eagle Feather

32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-849-1

Siha Tooskin Knows the Strength of His Hair

24 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-837-8



Charlene Bearhead



Wilson Bearhead

finish the stories and get them into kids' hands.

In each of the eight books, Paul Wahasaypa, or Siha Tooskin (which means Little Foot), an 11-year-old Nakota boy, explores an element of his and other First Nations' cultures.

In *Siha Tooskin Knows the Gifts of Our People*, he learns from his father about many innovations and technologies that originated with the First Peoples of Turtle Island, in the areas of transportation, architecture, communication, medication, agriculture, and more.

In *Siha Tooskin Knows the Love of the Dance*, Paul's uncle takes him and his best friend to a powwow where they learn about the different dances and their meaning. For example, "Men's traditional dancers can be warriors or hunters. Some dances tell stories about tracking enemies or animals in a hunt. That dance is called a Sneak-Up."

In *Siha Tooskin Knows the Nature of Life*, Paul goes for a walk in the

Charlene Bearhead, an educator and Indigenous education advocate living near Edmonton, Alberta, says that the *Siha Tooskin Knows* series of eight books for middle-years readers was born out of a need.

"I started writing the books when my children were very young as there were not a lot of children's books where they could see themselves represented. The books sat in a

briefcase for over 20 years in their unfinished forms."

Her husband, Wilson Bearhead, saw that need, too. "I thought there should be more stories about Indigenous people," he says. "I felt that children are the ones that are going to make change, and they need a new perspective on Canada. I often think back to the old people, when they would cry and ask why they (Canadians) don't want to know about us and our stories." So Wilson kept encouraging Charlene to



woods with his mother and learns the lessons to be found there: kindness from the tall grasses, generosity from the birds and animals, and strength and resilience from the rocks.

Other titles include *Siha Tooskin Knows the Best Medicine*, *Siha Tooskin Knows the Catcher of Dreams*, *Siha Tooskin Knows the Offering of Tobacco*, *Siha Tooskin Knows the Sacred Eagle Feather*, and *Siha Tooskin Knows the Strength of His Hair*.

Charlene says that while she does the actual writing, “Wilson is the one who brings the expertise around cultural practices and Nakota language.”

“But we both bring our own experience with children,” says

Wilson, “our own children and all of the other children that have been part of our lives.

“I’m a storyteller, but Charlene is a writer, so we bring all of our different gifts together.”

Speaking of artistic gifts, Chloe Bluebird Mustooch, a graduate of the Emily Carr University of Art and Design, illustrated the books with coloured pencil and “just a touch of digital.”

“Working so closely with the writers Charlene and Wilson was such an enjoyable experience,” she says. “They were so trusting with my own creative ability that this project came with great ease.” 🌿

“I felt that children are the ones that are going to make change, and they need a new perspective on Canada. I often think back to the old people, when they would cry and ask why they (Canadians) don’t want to know about us and our stories.”

WILSON BEARHEAD

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

New for Spring 2020

PATHWAYS OF RECONCILIATION
 978-0-88755-854-2
 MAKNO AND MEMORY • 978-0-88755-838-2
 MAKING BELIEVE • 978-0-88755-857-3
 IN GOOD RELATION • 978-0-88755-851-1
 CIVILIAN INTERNMENT IN CANADA
 978-0-88755-845-0

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PRESS

Editors build broad collection with 'multiplicity of expression around Indigenous feminisms'

Five-year process leads to an anthology for those familiar and those new to these concepts

by Paula E. Kirman

IN GOOD RELATION:

History, Gender, and Kinship in Indigenous Feminisms

Edited by Sarah Nickel and Amanda Fehr

University of Manitoba Press

\$27.95 pb, 264 pages

ISBN: 978-0-88755-851-1

Available as an ebook

The voices of Indigenous women are often not well represented within mainstream feminism, which has historically been white and middle class. However, over the past three decades, Indigenous feminist literature has addressed how Indigenous women are affected by both colonialism and patriarchy.

In Good Relation: History, Gender, and Kinship in Indigenous Feminisms presents a diverse selection of Indigenous feminist voices and critical thought from an emerging generation of artists, activists, and scholars.

The book is edited by Sarah Nickel, a Tk'emlupsemc assistant professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, and Amanda Fehr, a white settler from Saskatoon whose research includes community-engaged oral history work in the predominantly Métis community of Île-à-la-Crosse and with the English River First Nation.

"This project started with a panel at the 2015 meeting of the Canadian Historical Association, where Rob Innes from the Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and Jill McConkey from the University of Manitoba Press encouraged us to pursue a volume on Indigenous feminisms," say the editors. "The process was quite lengthy and our team and contributors have seen some changes over these almost five years."

It was important to the editors to include a wide range of contributors.

"All along we wanted this to be a broad collection that would bring together folks from diverse backgrounds and 'communities,' so we really see our work through conception to publication as a collaborative effort across a number of different considerations," they say.

"We worked with artists, activists, scholars, community members – with the understanding that these identities and communities are not singular and have porous boundaries."

In Good Relation is aimed at both readers who are familiar with and those new to the concept of Indigenous feminisms.

"We hope they will value the multiplicity of expression around Indigenous feminisms," say Nickel and Fehr. "If they are familiar with the concept, we hope they

will find something surprising and useful in how our contributors have taken this concept up. If they are new to Indigenous feminisms, we hope they gain a sense of the richness and complexity of these ideas."

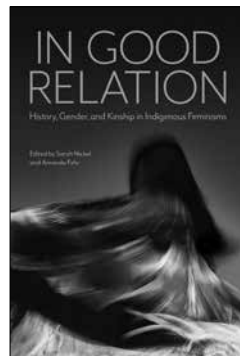
The editors note that Indigenous feminist literature has expanded over the last few decades.

"It has grown exponentially, and has been taken up in new and interesting ways," they say.

"It has been used to inform discussions on identity, politics, art, law, literature, film, and on, and on. It has been challenged as a concept and identity (with some feeling it is not useful or appropriate for Indigenous communities), it has been used to disrupt gender-based and racial hierarchies, and it has appeared in everyday conversation as well as in scholarly works from a range of disciplines. It has proven to be an important and emergent area of research and interest for many individuals."

That being said, they add, "This book provides just a snapshot of

the type of work folks are doing in Indigenous feminisms. In that regard, we hope that it will inspire readers to take part in the conversation – to take up threads of analysis offered by these contributors (or to address gaps that remain) – to build on this body of knowledge." 🌿



Leroy Wolf Collar wants to move government from a model of dystopia to utopia

Former Chief shares his experience in hopes of changing mindset of Indigenous, non-Indigenous readers alike

by Paula E. Kirman

FIRST NATIONS SELF-GOVERNMENT:

17 Roadblocks to Self-Determination, and One Chief's Thoughts on Solutions

Leroy Wolf Collar

Brush Education Inc.

\$24.95 pb, 168 pages

ISBN: 978-1-55059-821-6

Available as an ebook

In this era of reconciliation, the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples in Canada is more important than ever. Some Indigenous communities have signed self-government agreements of various kinds with the federal government, yet there are still many obstacles along the path to true self-determination for Indigenous nations.

Leroy Paul Wolf Collar, a former Chief of Siksika Nation in southern Alberta, dealt with many problems faced by Indigenous nations across the country, such as housing shortages, lack of opportunities for youth, and the challenges and frustrations of operating within the colonial system and the constraints of the Indian Act.

In his book *First Nations Self-Government: 17 Roadblocks to Self-Determination, and One Chief's Thoughts on Solutions*, Wolf Collar addresses 17 obstacles that are impeding Indigenous nations due to this defective system, such as broken treaty promises, problems with common forms of band administration, and the intrusion of provincial governments. He also provides potential solutions to overcome them.

"I wanted to share my knowledge and experience as a former councillor and chief in hopes that I can inspire future First Nations people into becoming educated and healthy leaders representing their communities," says

Wolf Collar. "I wanted to share the truth and realities experienced by First Nations Peoples whose quality of life is hindered by the '17 Roadblocks' I talk about in my book."

He specifically addresses leadership within First Nations communities. Wolf Collar says that First Nations need to change the way chiefs and councillors are elected. "We need leaders who are educated with leadership and management experience and with healthy minds. We need leaders as role models who lead by example, who will inspire the youth in our communities," he says.

As well, Wolf Collar says that "First Nations communities need to change the way they govern themselves – from the Indian Act (a place of dystopia) to self-government, which will lead us to self-determination (a place of utopia)."

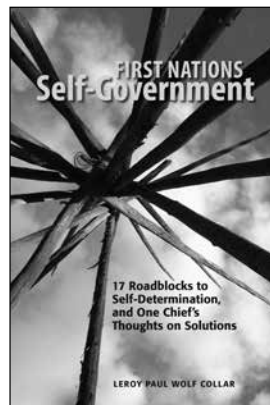
This involves developing Indigenous Constitutions based on traditional and sacred laws, citizenships, and languages. It involves defining the roles and responsibilities of everyone in Indigenous communities and not just depending on the chiefs and councillors, while also making chiefs and councillors accountable and transparent to the people who elected them.

But while *First Nations Self-Government* is aimed at aspiring and current Indigenous leaders, Wolf Collar emphasizes that the book is equally available to non-Indigenous readers.

He hopes to educate non-Indigenous Canadians "about the truth and realities facing Indigenous Peoples, which I share from an Indigenous lens and from my lived experiences as a former leader and someone who grew up on an Indian reserve."



Leroy Wolf Collar



READ AN EXTENDED VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE AT PRAIRIEBOOKSNOW.CA.

MORE FEATURES

PICTURE BOOKS

HEY LITTLE ROCKABYE: A LULLABY FOR PET ADOPTION

Buffy Sainte-Marie, illustrated
by Ben Hodson

After a lifetime of adopting rescued animals as pets, the Academy Award-winning singer-songwriter celebrates pet adoption with a song in this charmingly illustrated book, which includes the sheet music so that readers can “feel loving and cozy together” as they sing it to their pets. (Greystone Kids, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77164-482-2, available as ebook)

I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN

Lisa Boivin

This mature picture book for all ages explores grief and healing through the memories, dreams, and Dene traditions of the author, who learns of the death of her brother overseas and goes to bring him home. Vibrant illustrations enhance the poetry of the text.

(HighWater Press, \$25.00 hc, 52 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-855-2, available as ebook)

KAMIK TAKES THE LEAD

Adapted from the memories of Darryl Baker, illustrated by Ali Hinch

Jake and Kamik are preparing to run their first dogsled race with a full team, in this fourth instalment in the Kamik series of books, which share traditional dog-rearing practices and dog-training techniques.

(Inhabit Media, \$10.95 pb, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77227-266-6)

KIMOTINÂNIWIW ITWÊWINA / STOLEN WORDS

Melanie Florence, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard, translated by Gayle Weenie and Dolores Sand

This dual-language edition, in Plains Cree and English, of the award-winning story of the close relationship between a little girl and her grandfather and of the intergenerational impacts of the residential school system – including

language loss – works toward restoring Indigenous languages.

(Second Story Press, \$14.95 pb, 28 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77260-101-5)

EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS NON-FICTION

CARIBOU, ANIMALS ILLUSTRATED SERIES

Dorothy and David Aglukark,
illustrated by Amanda Sandland

In this intricately illustrated book, children will learn how caribou raise their babies, where they live, what they eat, and other interesting facts, such as how they communicate and how fast they can run. (Inhabit Media, \$15.95 hc, 28 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77227-234-5)

POWWOW: A CELEBRATION THROUGH SONG AND DANCE, ORCA ORIGINS SERIES

Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane

This book takes readers through a history of powwow culture in North America, and the author, a lifelong competitive powwow dancer, provides a guide to the protocols, regalia, songs, dances, and food found at powwows, as well as the important role powwows play in Indigenous culture and in reconciliation. (Orca Book Publishers, \$24.95 hc, 88 pages, with colour photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-4598-1234-5, available as ebook)

MIDDLE YEARS FICTION

THE CASE OF THE MISSING AUNTIE, MIGHTY MUSKRATS MYSTERY SERIES, BOOK TWO

Michael Hutchinson

Chickadee, Atim, Samuel, and Otter – the Mighty Muskrats – are off to the city for the Exhibition Fair. While there, they need to solve a mystery for their grandpa – find out what happened to his sister who was taken away from their home during the ‘60s Scoop.

(Second Story Press, \$10.95 pb, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77260-117-6)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

If I Go Missing

Brianna Jonnie with Nahanni

Shingoose, art by Nshannacappo

This powerful graphic novel is based on the letter that Brianna Jonnie sent to the

Chief of the Winnipeg Police, asking why missing Indigenous people do not get the same swift response from the police and the public as missing white people do, and urging the police and the media to do better.

(James Lorimer & Company, \$24.95 hc, 64 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4594-1451-8)

NORTHWEST RESISTANCE, A GIRL CALLED ECHO, VOL. 3

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

Echo Desjardins continues to slip back in time, learning first-hand about Métis history. This time, she travels to Batoche at the time when the Canadian government is ignoring the petitions of the Métis people, who enlist Louis Riel to help them. (HighWater Press, \$18.95 pb, 48 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-831-6, available as ebook)

FICTION, POETRY, AND DRAMA

BEARS

Matthew MacKenzie

In this award-winning multidisciplinary play about the Trans Mountain Pipeline, Floyd is the prime suspect in a workplace accident, so he heads west from Edmonton to the Rockies, where he hopes to escape the RCMP and get some kind of work involving bears. Along the way, a mystical transformation takes place.

(Playwrights Canada Press, \$17.95 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0-36910-106-8)

FIVE LITTLE INDIANS

Michelle Good

With compassion and insight, this novel tells the stories of five residential school survivors – Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie, and Maisie – as they take very different routes to coming to terms with their past and finding a way forward.

(HarperCollins Publishers, \$22.99 pb, 304 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-5918-1, available as ebook and audiobook)

TAAQTUMI: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ARCTIC HORROR STORIES

Compiled by Neil Christopher

Taaqtumi means “in the dark,” and the nine stories by Northern writers

– including Richard Van Camp and Aviaq Johnston – are dark indeed, with everything from zombies to cannibalism in the land of long nights and stormy days. (Inhabit Media, \$16.95 pb, 180 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77227-214-7)

NON-FICTION

A HISTORY OF MY BRIEF BODY

Billy-Ray Belcourt

This memoir by the youngest winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize opens with memories of his early life in Jossard, Alberta, and on the Driftpile First Nation, and expands to encompass the legacy of colonial violence, first loves, sexual exploration, and the act of writing as a survival instinct and as a way to grieve. (Hamish Hamilton-Penguin Random House, \$25.00 hc, 192 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7352-3778-0, available as ebook and audiobook)

INTIMATE INTEGRATION: A HISTORY OF THE SIXTIES SCOOP AND THE COLONIZATION OF INDIGENOUS KINSHIP

Allyson D. Stevenson

This analysis of the '60s Scoop and the post-Second World War child welfare legislation in North America documents the rise and fall of transracial adoption projects, using an Indigenous gender analysis to show how gender and kinship relationships were undermined. (University of Toronto Press, 320 pages, \$75.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0064-1; \$32.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-2045-8; available as ebook)

INVESTED INDIFFERENCE: HOW VIOLENCE PERSISTS IN SETTLER COLONIAL SOCIETY

Kara Granzow

Granzow demonstrates that through mechanisms such as the law, medicine, and control of land and space, violence against Indigenous Peoples has become symbolically and politically ensconced in the social construction of Canadian nationhood.

(UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7748-3743-9, available as ebook)

MNIDOO BEMAASING BEMAADIZIWIN: RECLAIMING, RECONNECTING AND DEMYSTIFYING 'RESILIENCY' AS LIFE FORCE ENERGY FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

Dr. Theresa Turmel

This community-based book brings forward Indigenous thought, history, and acts of resistance as viewed through the survivors of the residential school system, people who were able to persevere with resiliency and who share in their voices how they found strength within themselves to thrive.

(ARP Books, \$22.00 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-35-9, available as ebook)

THE NORTH-WEST IS OUR MOTHER: THE STORY OF LOUIS RIEL'S PEOPLE, THE MÉTIS NATION

Jean Teillet

Written by the great-grandniece of Louis Riel, this engaging history tells the story of the Métis Nation, from its beginnings in the early 1800s through the battles for recognition, for lands, and for rights and freedoms, including the acts of resistance in 1870 and 1885 up to the 20th century when the Métis people fought to be recognized as a distinct Indigenous nation. (Patrick Crean Editions-HarperCollins, \$36.99 hc, 592 pages, with maps, photos, notes, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-1-4434-5012-6)

OUR HEARTS ARE AS ONE FIRE: AN OJIBWAY-ANISHINABE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Jerry Fontaine

This book draws on Ojibway-, Ota'wa-, and Ishkodawatomi-Anishinabe world views, history, and lived experience to develop a vision of how Anishinabe spiritual, cultural, legal, and political principles will support the leaders of today and tomorrow. (UBC Press, 180 pages, \$75.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6287-5; \$29.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6288-2; available as ebook)

PATHWAYS OF RECONCILIATION: INDIGENOUS AND SETTLER APPROACHES TO IMPLEMENTING THE TRC'S CALLS TO ACTION

Edited by Aimée Craft and Paulette Regan

These essays by academics, practitioners, students, and ordinary citizens address the themes of reframing, learning and healing, researching, and living, as

they engage with different approaches to thinking about and practising reconciliation.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 344 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-854-2, available as ebook)

RECLAIMING TOM LONGBOAT: INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION IN CANADIAN SPORT

Janice Forsyth

This book recounts the history of Indigenous sport in Canada through the lens of the prestigious Tom Longboat Awards. Forsyth critically assesses the state's role in policing Indigenous bodies and identities through sport, recognizing sport as a tool for colonization in Canada, while also acknowledging its potential to become a tool for decolonization and self-determination.

(University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 256 pages, with tables, notes, bibliography, index, ISBN: 978-0-88977-728-6, available as ebook)

STORYING VIOLENCE: UNRAVELLING COLONIAL NARRATIVES IN THE STANLEY TRIAL

Gina Starblanket and Dallas Hunt

The authors explore the 2018 murder of Colten Boushie and the subsequent trial of Gerald Stanley, arguing that Boushie's death and Stanley's acquittal are a manifestation of the crisis-ridden relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan. (ARP Books, \$15.00 pb, 120 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-37-3, available as ebook)

TO BE A WATER PROTECTOR: THE RISE OF THE WIINDIGOO SLAYERS

Winona LaDuke

LaDuke, a leader in culturally based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy, sustainable food systems, and Indigenous rights, in this book explores issues that have been central to her activism, including elements of a New Green Economy and lessons we can take from activists outside of Canada and the United States.

(Fernwood Publishing, \$25.00 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77363-267-4)

Kehler brings voices of 16 men together to create a new definition of strength

'Put a voice to my pain, and be free from it': author leads by example in sharing struggles

by Laura Kupcis

MENTAL HEALTH:

It's Time to Talk

Allan Kehler

Your Nickel's Worth Publishing

\$17.95 pb, 192 pages

ISBN: 978-1-988783-47-5

Available as an ebook

Motivational speaker and author Allan Kehler has real concerns about the state of men's mental health, and his latest book, *MENTal Health: It's Time to Talk*, addresses those concerns with an aim to help.



Allan Kehler

Men are far less likely to ask for help than women – they spend entire lives hiding their feelings because of deeply rooted societal ideas of what a man should look like and how he must act.

“Human programming surrounding the idea of masculinity influences boys,” Kehler says. “Boys were training to be men, and men were supposed to be physically

strong, ruthlessly competitive, confident, and stoic at all times. Boys weren't often taught how to recognize and talk about their feelings; they were taught to be a man and suppress their emotions.”

This programming is slowly changing. “Today, boys are being taught to feel, to cry, and to reach out for help in times of need,” Kehler writes. “Boys are beginning to understand that asking for help is not a weakness, but rather a strength. They are learning that it's okay to not be okay.

“What's not okay is to fight your battles in silence,” he urges. “There is nothing manly about suffering in silence. While the pressure to be strong still exists for boys, silence has never equalled strength.”

Kehler, whose own struggles with mental illness began at the age of 14, says he knows firsthand what it's like to live a life where you're smiling on the outside, but suffering on the inside.

“I also know what it feels like to be vulnerable, put a voice to my pain, and be free from it,” Kehler says.

Over the years, Kehler has met a great number of men who have been carrying pain around for far too long – pain resulting from mental illness, addiction, tragedy, sexual abuse, and trauma.

“Why does it have to get so bad before we, as men, ask for help? Why do some of the headlines read ‘Women Seek Help; Men Die?’” Kehler asks.

“It was my hope that through a book like this, I could answer these questions.”

This book will save lives.

It includes the personal stories of 16 men – professors, counsellors, farmers, fathers, motivational speakers, teachers – who have suffered in silence, who have feared repercussions from asking for help, feared ruining their reputation, or challenging the idea that men must be strong at all times.

But then they opened up, they asked for help, they shared their pain. Suddenly there was hope, there was help, and there was understanding.

This book will show men a more useful idea of what strong can be.

“The men in this book are motivated to help boys and men recognize that they don't need to conform to the old stereotypes of masculinity,” Kehler says. “They are motivated to represent a new and healthy form of masculinity, and demonstrate that real men can, and should, ask for help.

“These men understand that the conversation around men's mental health won't get better unless we make it better.” 🌿



Untangling the promised benefits of public-private partnerships

John Loxley examines how neoliberal austerity measures move money through 'ideological bias'

by Paula E. Kirman



John Loxley

IDEOLOGY OVER ECONOMICS: *P3s in an Age of Austerity*

John Loxley

Fernwood Publishing

\$28.00 pb, 252 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77363-192-9

Available as ebook

Public-private partnerships, known as P3s, in which the private sector takes on roles previously carried out by the public sector, are becoming popular in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, especially since the 2008 financial crisis.

Economist John Loxley examines the expansion of P3s in municipal, provincial, national, First Nations, and international contexts in his new book, *Ideology Over Economics: P3s in an Age of Austerity*. He describes P3s and the various forms they might take, showing how they allow the private sector to encroach on what was previously public-sector territory.

The topic has been one Loxley has been examining for quite some time. "Bringing together articles I have written on [P3s] since the 2008 financial crisis seemed to be a good idea," says Loxley. He's a professor of economics at the University of Manitoba and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and has served as an economic advisor to numerous governments.

Why are P3s becoming so popular? According to the governments in question, the rationale for using P3s includes arguments such as lower cost, reduced risk, and higher quality construction for public projects. But are there other factors at play?

In fact, there is no evidence that risks to governments are reduced, and higher costs of borrowing together with

transaction costs, such as legal and administrative costs, mean there is little, if any, savings.

Loxley argues that there is a neoliberal ideology at the core of the popularity of P3s, one that governments do not readily admit to. "P3s are the product of policies of austerity by governments with neoliberal policy agendas," he says. "The book aims to situate P3s in this policy perspective."

These neoliberal policies of austerity include cutting public spending to stimulate private sector activity, employment, and GDP growth. In effect, they lead to a reduced role of the state and bring a profit motive into public-sector operations.

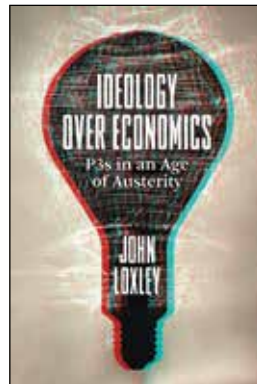
Loxley's conclusions that P3s do not achieve their promised goals and that their expansion has more to do with ideology than actual benefits to the economy and community are the result of his in-depth studies of P3s.

"I looked at the relationship of union pension funds to P3s, the importance of P3s to municipalities, and the role of P3s in African and developing countries generally," he says. "I examined the collapse of P3 giant Carillion in the U.K. and its implications for P3s in both the U.K. and Canada."

He adds that there are other factors of concern with P3s, namely restricting future governments, thereby eroding the principles of democracy – voters can't bring about change if new governments are bound by old agreements.

"P3s last for as long as 35 years and bring inflexibility into infrastructure projects," says Loxley. "They also commit government forward for many years and hence do not promote democracy."

Ideology Over Economics is aimed at students, workers, and government employees, as well as the general public. Loxley hopes that readers will learn that "the economic and financial arguments for involving the private sector in designing, building, financing, and operating infrastructure through P3s are very weak and that P3s are essentially the product of ideological bias." 🌿



Communication strategies for classrooms, students, and scholars are easily adaptable

Kyle Conway asks for a return to curiosity, playfulness, and ethics, rather than competition

by melanie brannagan frederiksen



Kyle Conway

THE ART OF COMMUNICATION IN A POLARIZED WORLD

Kyle Conway

Athabasca University Press

\$24.99 pb, 168 pages

with colour and b/w figures throughout

ISBN: 978-1-77199-293-0

Available as an ebook

Kyle Conway is a professor of communication studies at the University of Ottawa. His third book, *The Art of Communication in a Polarized World*, asks, “How do we come to understand people who seem different from us?”

While in his previous books Conway focused on TV, *The Art of Communication in a Polarized World* “is more about strategies we can use” to more effectively engage with people who are different from us.

The Art of Communication in a Polarized World is addressed to his students and fellow scholars, but Conway’s style and language are both accessible and inviting. “Even though we’re not in a classroom together, the strategies I talk about are adaptable and applicable elsewhere,” he says.

The first of Conway’s strategies is misreading, which involves taking an established text and approaching it from a different angle, reading it in ways it hasn’t been read before. At its most productive, being willing to approach an established pattern slantwise allows for the possibility of genuine reframing of a conflict and increased mutual understanding.

Conway demonstrates this by describing the way he might use misreading to convince his children to clean their rooms.

“Perhaps we make a joke out of the fact that it’s a script. We read it ironically. I say their lines, they say mine. In the end, if I’m lucky, we reach a point where we see their hesitation to clean as a result not of the work but of their frustration at repeating the script again, a frustration that’s dissipated through humour. Or I see my insistence as a result not of the dirty floor as such but of my need to feel dad-like, and I can cut them some slack.”

The second rhetorical strategy is invention. “According to Aristotle,” Conway says, “anyone can learn the tools of rhetoric and invention, which is really just figuring out what you need, what you have on hand, and how you can use it to persuade someone.”

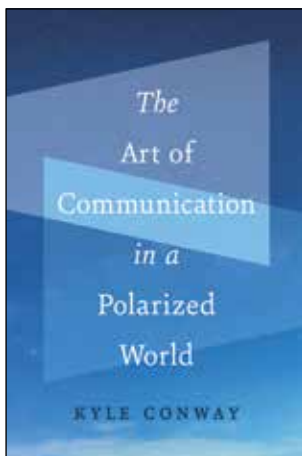
Both of these strategies have a dark side. Misreading, as Conway demonstrates in his discussion of George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, “can also be used to loosen people’s grip on what they think they know. Gaslighting is a form of misreading.”

Invention, too, can function not as persuasion but as provocation. As an example, “Trump has worked to impose a victim frame (or even a revenge frame) on his impeachment acquittal, in contrast to the democracy (or corruption) frame Democrats have tried to advance,” Conway says.

“I don’t think either side will persuade anyone who doesn’t already agree with them, but that’s the polarization I hope to address.”

This “need to compete, to win, to beat people we see as political opponents” is what Conway sees as the root of our culture’s polarization. The remedies he proposes to our cultural and political polarization are based in curiosity, playfulness, and ethical commitment to one another.

“Misreading is a knife that cuts both ways,” Conway says, “which is why we must also think about our obligations to the people we’re talking to.” 🍴



Lovely, luscious, and local Saskatchewan eats compiled in one handy book

Jenn Sharp's tastebuds led the way for this collection of 167 food artisans

by Shirley Byers

FLAT OUT DELICIOUS:

Your Definitive Guide to Saskatchewan's Food Artisans

Jenn Sharp, photographs by Richard Marjan

TouchWood Editions
\$25.00 pb, 352 pages
with full-colour photos
throughout, index
ISBN: 978-1-77151-304-3
Available as an ebook

Jenn Sharp's new book, *Flat Out Delicious: Your Definitive Guide to Saskatchewan's Food Artisans*, will be finding its way into the glove boxes and consoles of many vehicles heading out on the highway this summer. Along with sunblock and water bottles, this guide to good eating in Saskatchewan is destined to be an essential element of every road trip.

Flat Out Delicious includes 167 food artisan profiles. Saskatoon-based Sharp says she "visited each person in the book, ate each chef's food, got to know each farmer's animals, and felt the dirt in each vegetable garden.

"It's for those reasons," she adds, "that I can personally recommend

you support the artisans included in these pages."

Before tackling this book, Sharp had written about food in Saskatchewan in her *Flat Out Food* column, which runs in the *Star Phoenix* and the *Regina Leader-Post*. But for this book, she went further afield than she had before.

Artisans featured in the book include cheese maker Kevin Petty, who makes small-batch artisanal cheese in a style modelled after an 18th-century European recipe. He launched Saskatoon Spruce in 2018.

Curtis Reid forages for wild non-tree products in northern Saskatchewan. He's harvested and sold Labrador tea, fireweed leaves, yarrow, wild sarsaparilla root, valerian roots, balm of Gilead buds, and wild mushrooms.

At Nokomis, Jeff Allport operates a microbrewery and a taproom. His four core beers are made from Prairie-grown barley.

In Imperial, chef Tracy Kelly-Wilcox always has a grain bowl and a pulse plate on the menu at her bakery and café. She doesn't want to offend anyone in beef country, but, she says, "I wanted to showcase items that everyone around here grows but very few people eat."

And folks can't resist the doughnuts at the Wadena Bakery, "likely the best spot for Boston cream

doughnuts in the province," as Sharp says.

Award-winning photographer Richard Marjan – whose work has appeared in *Canadian Geographic*, the *New York Times*, and the *Globe and Mail* – contributes to the lushness of the book with full-colour photographs of the profiled artisans, as well as landscapes, produce, livestock, happy diners, and of course, delicious food.

There's a definite interest in where our food comes from these days.

"Every day, I am more and more inspired by our growing local food system," Sharp says. "More independent retailers stocking locally made, grown, and raised goods are opening, more farmers are choosing to sell direct-to-consumer and buck the commodity trend, and more consumers are wanting to get to know – and support – their local farmers. More and more farmers are turning to regenerative agriculture and holistic animal husbandry methods, which inspires the heck outta me!"

As extensive as the coverage in *Flat Out Delicious* is, there is plenty more out there.

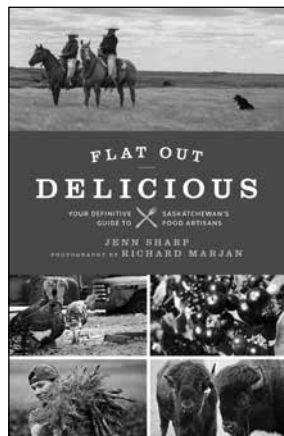
"A sequel is definitely a possibility!" says Sharp. "It wasn't possible to include everyone in the first book and by the time it's published, there will be many more incredible food artisans to add to the list.

"Beyond that, I'd like to do a similar project but on a national scale." 🌱



Jenn Sharp

RICHARD MARJAN



MORE NON-FICTION

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT

Leah Hennel

Through vibrant and at times intensely personal photographs, this evocative book presents a fresh perspective on the contemporary cowboy culture and the modern ranching lifestyle throughout central and southern Alberta, showing the hard work and glory of its grittiness. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$40.00 hc, 192 pages, with colour & b/w photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77160-205-1, available as ebook)

OLD MAN'S GARDEN: THE HISTORY AND LORE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA WILDFLOWERS

Annora Brown

Originally published in 1954, this Canadian classic tells the legends and folklore of southern Alberta's native plants and wildflowers through art and stories, featuring pen-and-ink drawings of flowers and native plants and full-colour images of the artist's later paintings of the dramatic landscape of the Oldman River area. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$30.00 pb, 280 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-344-7)

TREASURES OF WINNIPEG'S HISTORIC EXCHANGE

George J. Mitchell

This breathtaking photography book celebrates the architectural splendour and cultural heritage of Winnipeg's famed Exchange District, a 30-block area featuring 150 remarkably preserved heritage buildings dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These photos highlight the impressive scale and intricate detail of the Exchange's banks, warehouses, and commercial towers. (Heritage House, \$49.95 hc, 272 pages, colour and b/w photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77203-307-6)

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

MENNO MOTO: A MOTORCYCLE JOURNEY ACROSS THE AMERICAS IN SEARCH OF MY MENNONITE IDENTITY

Cameron Dueck

This memoir of an eight-month, 45,000-kilometre motorcycle trip follows

the author as he visits Mennonite communities in Mexico, Belize, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina. He finds reasons to both love and loathe the culture he left – and finds himself along the way. (Biblioasis, \$22.95 pb, 240 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77196-347-3, available as ebook)

OUT OF MY MIND: A PSYCHOLOGIST'S DESCENT INTO MADNESS AND BACK

Shalom Camenietzki

This account of a psychologist with bipolar disorder reveals the strengths and fallibilities of traditional psychotherapies and shows how Dr. Camenietzki finally obtained a life free of the turmoil of obsessive daydreams of taking his life, flamboyant periods of mania, disturbing acts of violence against his family, and various episodes of psychosis. (University of Regina Press, \$24.95 hc, 272 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-689-0, available as ebook)

POURIN' DOWN RAIN: A BLACK WOMAN CLAIMS HER PLACE IN THE CANADIAN WEST

Cheryl Foggo

This is the 30th-anniversary edition of Foggo's landmark work about coming of age Black in 1960s Calgary, a time and place where Black people were a very visible minority. Foggo struggled against negative attitudes as an adolescent, but exploring her ancestry gave her the confidence to claim her place in the Canadian West, celebrating the Black experience and Black resiliency on the Prairies. (Brush Education Inc., \$19.95 pb, 128 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55059-833-9, available as ebook)

VERTICAL REFERENCE: THE LIFE OF LEGENDARY MOUNTAIN HELICOPTER RESCUE PILOT JIM DAVIES

Cathy Calvert

This book takes an exciting look at the adventurous life of Jim Davies, a pioneer heli-ski pilot and racer in Canada, and more importantly, a helicopter rescue pilot for Parks Canada. Davies won numerous awards for his groundbreaking work in mountain rescue, and was seen as a legend by all who worked with him. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$28.00 pb, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-415-4)

FOOD & DRINK

BABY FOOD IN AN INSTANT POT: 125 QUICK, SIMPLE AND NUTRITIOUS RECIPES FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS

Jennifer House and Marilyn Haugen

Information about babies' nutritional needs, how to prevent choking, and how to handle picky eating is included along with recipes for 50 purées, 25 finger foods, and 50 family-friendly dishes. Tips on storage times and serving fresh or freezing, and sample meal plans are also provided. (Robert Rose, \$24.95 pb, 192 pages, colour photos, index, ISBN: 978-0-7788-0635-6)

A SPICY TOUCH: FAMILY FAVOURITES FROM NOORBANU NIMJI'S KITCHEN

Noorbanu Nimji and Karen Anderson

In this book, Noorbanu Nimji collaborates with food writer and tour operator Karen Anderson to present more than 200 time-tested family favourites and new recipes – for soups, snacks, main dishes, grilling, breads, rice dishes, chutneys, and sweets – celebrating Nimji's North Indian Ismaili Muslim ancestry and the East African cuisine from her homeland in Kenya. (TouchWood Editions, \$40.00 hc, 320 pages, colour photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77151-333-3)

UNCERTAIN HARVEST: THE FUTURE OF FOOD ON A WARMING PLANET

Ian Mosby, Sarah Rotz, and Evan D. G. Fraser

Drawing on the ideas of experts such as scientists, chefs, activists, farmers, philosophers, and engineers, as well as cutting-edge research about how to make a more equitable, safe, sustainable, and plentiful food future, the authors present a roadmap for a global food policy, looking at eight foods that could save us: algae, caribou, kale, millet, tuna, crickets, milk, and rice.

(University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-720-0, available as ebook)

GUIDES

ADVENTURES WITH ADOPTABLE DOGS: AN INSTAGRAM GUIDE FOR ANIMAL ADVOCATES

Rachel Rodgers

Featuring fun photos and descriptions of several silly, sweet, and sometimes

brilliant dogs encountered at various shelters, this book is a useful social media resource demonstrating how advocates for pet adoption can gain positive exposure for the animals in their care in the most efficient, positive, and cost-effective way. (Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-379-9)

EVERYTHING MANITOBA: THE ULTIMATE BOOK OF LISTS

Christine Hanlon

Well-known Manitobans – such as Niigaan Sinclair with “10 Notable Events for Indigenous Peoples,” Jordan van Sewell with “10 Favourite Historical Buildings in Winnipeg,” and Gail Asper with “17 Random and Wonderful Things about Manitoba” – weigh in on everything of interest in Manitoba.

(MacIntyre Purcell Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77276-136-8)

150 NATURE HOT SPOTS IN CANADA: THE BEST PARKS, CONSERVATION AREAS AND WILD PLACES

Selected and edited by Debbie Olsen

This guide features a selection of destinations from the four existing Canadian nature hot spot guides with the addition of destinations in Quebec, Atlantic Canada, and the territories, profiling 85 general hot spots across the country and 65 hot spots chosen for their specialized appeal, such as backpacking, scenery, and birdwatching. (Firefly Books, \$29.95 pb, 256 pages, colour photos throughout, sidebars, index, ISBN: 978-0-2281-0242-7)

POPULAR WILDFLOWERS OF ALBERTA AND THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Neil L. Jennings

This light, full-colour field guide introduces amateur naturalists to some of the more commonly found wildflowers in Alberta and the Canadian Rockies. Profiles are arranged by predominant colour of blossoms, and include colour photos, informative descriptions with both common and scientific names, and additional information of interest often related to the common name.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$15.00 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-349-2)

POPULAR WILDFLOWERS OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES

Neil L. Jennings

This light, full-colour field guide introduces amateur naturalists to some of the more commonly found wildflowers in the Canadian Prairies. Profiles are arranged by predominant colour of blossoms, and include colour photos, informative descriptions with both common and scientific names, and additional information of interest often related to the common name.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$15.00 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-351-5)

THE PRAIRIE GARDENER'S GO-TO FOR PESTS AND DISEASES

Janet Melrose and Sheryl Normandeau

This guide to trouble-shooting problems with weeds, insects, micro-organisms, rodents, birds, deer, and other common Prairie gardeners' issues uses an integrated pest management approach, showing how to identify the problem and how to deter it, while respecting the broader environment. (TouchWood Editions, \$15.00 pb, 160 pages, colour photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77151-314-2, available as ebook)

THE PRAIRIE GARDENER'S GO-TO FOR VEGETABLES

Janet Melrose and Sheryl Normandeau

From planning to planting to harvesting vegetables such as onions, lettuce, carrots, celery, beets, corn, legumes, peppers, potatoes, squash and more, this Q & A-style guide covers common questions about cultivation practices, preventing damage from frost, flood, and drought, and harvest and storage.

(TouchWood Editions, \$15.00 pb, 160 pages, colour photos throughout, ISBN: 978-1-77151-312-8, available as ebook)

GENERAL NON-FICTION

THE ABORTION CARAVAN: WHEN WOMEN SHUT DOWN GOVERNMENT IN THE BATTLE FOR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Karin Wells

Spring 2020 marks 50 years since a group of 17 remarkable women set out from Vancouver in a big yellow convertible, a Volkswagen bus, and a pickup truck to gather support on their way to Ottawa,

where they led a rally of 500 women on Parliament Hill and shut down Parliament for the first time in Canadian history, pulling off a national campaign in an era without social media and with an almost non-existent budget.

(Second Story Press, \$24.95 pb, 392 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-1-77260-125-1, available as ebook)

THE AGING-DISABILITY NEXUS

Edited by Katie Aubrecht, Christine Kelly, and Carla Rice

This groundbreaking book brings gerontology and disability studies into dialogue with each other through a variety of empirical, conceptual, and pedagogical approaches, analyzing the distinction between aging *with* a disability and aging *into* disability, and revealing how multiple identities, socio-economic forces, culture, and community form experience.

(UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6367-4, available as ebook)

ALL THE FEELS: AFFECT AND WRITING IN CANADA / TOUS LES SENS: AFFECT ET ÉCRITURE AU CANADA

Edited by Marie Carrière, Ursula Mathis-Moser, and Kit Dobson

Readable and timely, this book presents research into emotion and cognition in Canadian, Indigenous, and Québécois writings in English or French. The emerging field of affect studies makes vital claims about ethical impulses, social justice, and critical resistance – much is at stake when readers adopt affective reading practices.

(University of Alberta Press, \$39.99 pb, 312 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-487-3, available as ebook)

THE ANTHROPOCENE DISRUPTION

Robert William Sandford

This important and timely book addresses the new reality of the Anthropocene, a new geological epoch defined by human influence on the Earth system function, and what we should be doing about it.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 hc, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-319-5)

**AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF READING**

Dionne Brand

In this latest CLC Kreisel Lecture, Brand explores her encounters with colonial, imperialist, and racist tropes, the ways that practices of reading and writing are shaped by those narrative structures, and the challenges of writing a narrative of Black life that attends to its own expression and its own consciousness. (University of Alberta Press, \$12.99 pb, 72 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-508-5, available as ebook)

**BEDSIDE AND COMMUNITY: 50 YEARS
OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTH OF
ALBERTANS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

Edited by Diana Mansell, Frank W. Stahnisch, and Paula Larsson

This inside story of 50 years of health care and health research at the University of Calgary draws on first-person accounts of researchers, administrators, faculty, and students, along with archival research and faculty histories to celebrate the many contributions the university has made to the health of Albertans.

(University of Calgary Press, \$34.99 pb, 264 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-072-6, available as ebook)

**CANADA'S LEGAL PASTS: LOOKING
FORWARD, LOOKING BACK**

Edited by Lyndsay Campbell, Ted McCoy, and Mélanie Méthot

This book presents new essays on a range of topics and episodes in Canadian legal history, provides an introduction to legal methodologies, shows researchers newer to the field how to locate and use a variety of sources, and includes a combined bibliography arranged to demonstrate best practices in gathering and listing primary sources.

(University of Calgary Press, \$39.99 pb, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-116-7, available as ebook)

**CHANGING NEIGHBOURHOODS: SOCIAL AND
SPATIAL POLARIZATION IN CANADIAN CITIES**

Edited by Jill L. Grant, Alan Walks, and Howard Ramos

This book examines the dimensions and impacts of increased economic inequality

and urban socio-spatial polarization since the 1980s, showing the kinds of factors – social, economic, and cultural – that have influenced residential options and redistributed concentrations of poverty and affluence, and signalling the urgency for concerted policy responses.

(UBC Press, \$110.00 hc, 352 pages, with maps, table, charts, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6202-8, available as ebook)

**CIVILIAN INTERNMENT IN CANADA:
HISTORIES AND LEGACIES**

Edited by Rhonda L. Hinthner and Jim Mochoruk

This collection, which includes personal memoirs of survivors and their descendants, as well as works of community activists, scholars, and public historians, explores the connections, contrasts, and continuities across the broad range of civilian internments in Canada from the days of the First World War to the present.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$31.95 pb, 432 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-845-0, available as ebook)

**CONTACT!UNLOAD: MILITARY VETERANS,
TRAUMA, AND RESEARCH-BASED THEATRE**

Edited by George Belliveau and Graham W. Lea, with Marv Westwood

This book explores the development, performance, and reception of *Contact!Unload*, a play that brings to life the personal stories of veterans returning from deployment overseas. The play and the book serve as a model for using arts-based approaches to mental health care. (UBC Press, 264 pages, with b/w photos, \$89.98 hc, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6262-2; \$34.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6263-9; available as ebook)

**CREATING HEALTHY ORGANIZATIONS:
TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE
EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING**

Graham Lowe

This revised and expanded edition provides an evidence-based practical guide to strengthening the links between employee well-being and performance in any organization and an updated analysis

of the hurdles to overcome and factors of success.

(Rotman-UTP Publishing, \$34.95 hc, 288 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0515-8, available as ebook)

**CROSSING BORDERS: ESSAYS IN
HONOUR OF IAN ANGUS, BEYOND
PHENOMENOLOGY AND CRITIQUE**

Edited by Samir Gandesha and Peyman Vahabzadeh

These original and cutting-edge essays by outstanding and diverse Canadian and international scholars engage with Ian Angus's rich contributions to three distinct, but overlapping, fields: Canadian studies, phenomenology and critical theory, and communication and media studies.

(ARP, \$28.00 pb, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-927886-33-5, available as ebook)

**CRY WOLF: INQUEST INTO THE
TRUE NATURE OF A PREDATOR**

Harold R. Johnson

In 2005, Kenton Carnegie was killed in a wolf attack near his work camp in northern Saskatchewan. Johnson analyzes the evidence – some of which was ignored or falsified or at the very least misrepresented in the report by the coroner's expert – to examine this story and other attacks, showing how our relationship with wolves is shifting, to our peril.

(University of Regina Press, \$16.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-738-5, available as ebook)

**DIGITAL POLITICS IN CANADA:
PROMISES AND REALITIES**

Edited by Tamara A. Small and Harold J. Jansen

This book looks at Canadian political practice and the increased use of digital politics, featuring chapters on the rapid digitization of Indigenous people, women, and young people, and taking an in-depth look at key issues of online surveillance and Internet voting.

(University of Toronto Press, 272 pages, \$110.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-8759-8; \$49.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-8758-1; available as ebook)

**DISSONANT METHODS: UNDOING DISCIPLINE
IN THE HUMANITIES CLASSROOM**

Edited by Ada S. Jaarsma and Kit Dobson

This innovative collection probes how, by teaching inventively, post-secondary instructors can resist the constrictions of neo-liberalism. The contributors offer practical meditations on resistant and sustainable teaching and seek to undermine forms of oppression frequently practised in higher education, aiming instead for critical thinking, creativity, and inclusivity.

(University of Alberta Press, \$29.99 pb, 216 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-489-7, available as ebook)

EERIE EDMONTON

Rhonda Parrish with Rona Anderson

Are there really spirits lurking around Fort Edmonton and the provincial legislature? Do ghosts haunt the halls of the University of Alberta? This collection of more than 40 stories reveals the truth in the tales people tell and highlights Edmonton's dark shadows and colourful past.

(Dundurn, \$21.99 pb, 224 pages, with b/w illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-4597-4449-3)

THE END OF THE CBC?

David Taras and Christopher Waddell

This book examines the political, economic, social, media, and cultural forces that have pushed the CBC, after almost 90 years, to the point where it must be reimagined or re-invented. The authors propose a way forward, one in which the corporation concentrates its resources on news and current affairs and re-establishes a reputation for depth and quality.

(University of Toronto Press, 232 pages, \$80.00 hc, ISBN: 978-1-4875-9353-7; \$34.95 pb, ISBN: 978-1-4875-9352-0; available as ebook)

THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Edited by Daniel Macfarlane and Murray Clamen

This definitive history of the International Joint Commission, which oversees and protects the shared waters of Canada and the United States, covers a broad range of chronological, geographic, and thematic aspects of its evolution, by an impressive interdisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners.

(University of Calgary Press, \$42.99 pb, 622 pages, with b/w images, ISBN: 978-1-77385-107-5, available as ebook)

FLIGHT: STORIES OF CANADIAN AVIATION, VOL. 1

Edited by Deanna J. Driver

Wartime bombings, engine failures, a rudimentary air traffic control tower, and flights with the Canadian Forces Snowbirds aerobatics team are among the engaging true stories by western Canadian pilots and aviation enthusiasts in this first book of the Flight series.

(DriverWorks Ink, \$19.95 pb, 192 pages, with b/w photos, index, ISBN: 978-1-927570-49-4)

Lullabies In The Real World
by Meredith Quartermain

A sequence of poems about a train journey from Canada's West Coast to the East Coast, poet Meredith Quartermain invokes a patchwork of regions, voices and histories.



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The Response Of Weeds
by Bertrand Bickersteth

This debut poetry collection explores what it means to be Black and Albertan as seen through a variety of prisms: historical, biographical, and essentially, geographical.



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Synaesthetic Verity Richards discovers a hidden world inside an old theatre. Within the timeworn walls live people who should not exist—people whose very survival is threatened by science, technology, and natural law.



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Rolling Thunder
by A.J. Devlin

When “Hammerhead” Jed Ounstead is hired to find a missing roller derby coach, he discovers that the turnbuckle and metal chair mayhem of the wrestling ring pales in comparison to the roller derby's four-wheeled ferocity.



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

GOD SPEED: WALKING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Mark Buchanan

Part theology, part history, part field guide, this book explores walking as spiritual formation, walking as healing, walking as exercise, walking as prayer, walking as pilgrimage, suffering, friendship, and attentiveness, and provides specific walkabouts to help implement this habit. (Zondervan, \$23.99 pb, 256 pages, ISBN: 978-0-3103-6089-6, available as ebook and audiobook)

LAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION: CONSOLIDATED

Donald F. Bur

This volume gathers all of the historical and contemporary constitutional documents pertaining to Canada, its provinces, and its territories, organized thematically and topically for ease of reference, and supported by comprehensive lists and a thorough index. (University of Alberta Press, \$250.00 hc, 840 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-490-3)

MAKHNO AND MEMORY: ANARCHIST AND MENNONITE NARRATIVES OF UKRAINE'S COLD WAR, 1917-1921

Sean Patterson

Drawing on a vast array of sources about the conflict between Mennonite colonists in southern Ukraine and Nestor Makhno and his military forces during the Russian Civil War, Patterson attempts to make sense of the competing cultural memories, reframing the Mennonite-Makhno relationship.

(University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-838-2, available as ebook)

MAKING BELIEVE: QUESTIONS ABOUT MENNONITES AND ART

Magdalene Redekop

Part criticism, part memoir, this book uses case studies of Mennonite writers, visual artists, and music composers to raise questions about Mennonites and art, about how different sensibilities are affected by where we come from, insisting on respect

for difference while inviting readers to find common ground across cultures. (University of Manitoba Press, \$27.95 pb, 424 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88755-857-3, available as ebook)

MAKING THE BEST OF IT: WOMEN AND GIRLS OF CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Edited by Sarah Glassford and Amy Shaw

This book examines the ways in which gender and other identities intersected to shape the experiences of mainstream and minority female Canadians and Newfoundlanders during the war, broadening the scope of what is known about the changes the war wrought in their lives, and addressing wider debates about memory, historiography, and feminism.

(UBC Press, \$89.95 hc, 298 pages, with b/w photos, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6277-6, available as ebook)

NATURE'S BROKEN CLOCKS: REIMAGINING TIME IN THE FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Paul Huebener

Huebener argues that we can bring about change by developing a critical literacy of time. He turns to works of fiction and poetry to examine how cultural narratives of time are connected to the problems of ecological collapse and what we might do to fix them.

(University of Regina Press, \$24.95 pb, 220 pages, ISBN: 978-0-88977-712-5, available as ebook)

OTHERS OF MY KIND: TRANSATLANTIC TRANSGENDER HISTORIES

Alex Bakker, Rainer Herrn, Michael

Thomas Taylor, and Annette F. Timm

During the first half of the 20th century, a group of transgender people on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean established private networks by exchanging letters and pictures among themselves. They also sought to educate doctors and the public by submitting their stories and photos to medical journals and popular magazines.

This book draws on archives to tell the story of this remarkable community. (University of Calgary Press, \$49.99 pb, 400 pages, colour and b/w images, ISBN: 978-1-77385-121-1, available as ebook)

PRAIRIE: A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HEART OF NORTH AMERICA, REVISED EDITION

Candace Savage

This revised edition features a new preface and updated research on the effects of climate change on an increasingly vulnerable landscape, along with new information of the conservation of threatened species, grassland loss and conservation, the health of rivers and the water tables, and the benefits of regenerative agriculture.

(Greystone Books, \$24.95 pb, 320 pages, with b/w images and colour map insert, ISBN: 978-1-77164-594-2, available as ebook)

PSYCHIATRY AND THE LEGACIES OF EUGENICS: HISTORICAL STUDIES OF ALBERTA AND BEYOND

Edited by Frank W. Stahnisch and Erna Kurbegovic

Using institutional case studies, biographical accounts, and media reports, this book illustrates how the emerging field of psychiatry and its concerns about inheritable conditions was heavily influenced by eugenic thought and contributed to the longevity of sterilization practices in Western Canada, particularly Alberta.

(Athabasca University Press, \$37.99 pb, 488 pages, with b/w figures, ISBN: 978-1-77199-265-7, available as ebook)

REGIME OF OBSTRUCTION: HOW CORPORATE POWER BLOCKS ENERGY DEMOCRACY

Edited by William K. Carroll

This book aims to make visible the complex connections between corporate power and the extraction and use of carbon energy, providing hard data and empirical research that traces the power and influence of the fossil fuel industry through economics, politics, media, and higher education.

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

**ROYAL PROGRESS: CANADA'S MONARCHY
IN THE AGE OF DISRUPTION**

Edited by D. Michael Jackson

In anticipation of the end of a record-breaking reign by Queen Elizabeth II, these essays examine how the monarchy may evolve in Canada, exploring topics such as the historical relationship between the Indigenous Peoples and the Crown, the offices of the governor general and the lieutenant-governors, the succession to the throne, and more.

(Dundurn, \$24.99 pb, 216 pages, with b/w illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-4597-4573-5)

**SECESSION AND SEPARATIST CONFLICTS
IN POSTCOLONIAL AFRICA**

Charles G. Thomas and Toyin Falola

Drawing on rigorous research and using detailed case studies, this book examines the historical arc of secession and secessionist conflict across sub-Saharan Africa, paying particular attention to the development of the conflicts and their evolving goals.

(University of Calgary Press, \$39.99 pb, 416 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-126-6, available as ebook)

**TAKING A BREAK FROM SAVING THE
WORLD: A CLIMATE ACTIVIST'S JOURNEY
FROM BURNOUT TO BALANCE**

Stephen Legault

Legault looks at the culture of self-sacrifice that permeates the work done by volunteers and paid staff in the environmental conservation movement, and dissects how to manage one's time, energy, and commitment to causes, proposing a variety of techniques to relieve anxiety and help ensure workers in social change achieve a lifetime of engagement that is fulfilling, effective, and self-sustaining.

(Rocky Mountain Books, \$20.00 pb, 168 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77160-363-8)

**TALKING WITH BEARS: CONVERSATIONS
WITH CHARLIE RUSSELL**

G. A. Bradshaw

This intimate portrait of Charlie Russell describes his philosophy of nature and his experiences through the stories of individual bears and what they taught

him: the meaning of trust, respect, attention, love, and much more.
(Rocky Mountain Books, \$32.00 hc, 256 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-1-77160-361-4)

**THE TENTH JUSTICE: JUDICIAL
APPOINTMENTS, MARC NADON, AND
THE SUPREME COURT ACT REFERENCE**

Carissima Mathen and Michael Plaxton

Here, for the first time is the complete story of Stephen Harper's appointment of Marc Nadon as a Supreme Court judge, and an explanation of how the Nadon Reference case came to be, the issues at stake, and its legacy.

(UBC Press, 206 pages, \$75.00 hc, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6427-5; \$27.95 pb, ISBN: 978-0-7748-6428-2; available as ebook)

**TREASURING THE TRADITION: THE
STORY OF THE MILITARY MUSEUMS**

Jeff Keshen and David Bercuson

This lavishly illustrated history tells the story of how the Military Museums in Calgary – Canada's only tri-service museum and military education centre – came to be, from the formation of the Museum of the Regiments to the work of veterans and citizens to create and maintain one of Calgary's main cultural, educational and tourist sites.

(University of Calgary Press, \$29.99 pb, 144 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77385-058-0, available as ebook)

**UNTIL WE ARE FREE: REFLECTIONS ON
BLACK LIVES MATTER IN CANADA**

Edited by Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson, and Syrus Marcus Ware

This anthology of some of the best African-Canadian writing on the most urgent issues facing Black communities in Canada describes the latest developments of Canadian Black activism, organizing efforts through the use of social media, Black-Indigenous alliances, and more.

(University of Regina Press, \$27.95 pb, 368 pages, with photos, ISBN: 978-0-88977-694-4, available as ebook)

**THE URBAN ARCHETYPES OF JANE JACOBS
AND EBENEZER HOWARD: CONTRADICTION
AND MEANING IN CITY-FORM**

Abraham Akkerman

Situating Howard, the proponent of single-family homes with gardens, and Jacobs, who embraced existing inner-city neighbourhoods, within a psycho-cultural context, this book shows how they have become the two ancient archetypes, the Garden and the Citadel, leaving it to future generations to blend their opposing stances.

(University of Toronto Press, \$80.00 hc, 304 pages, with illustrations, maps, figures, ISBN: 978-1-4875-0126-6, available as ebook)

A WHITE LIE

Madeeha Hafez Albatta, edited by Barbara Bill and Ghada Ageel

In this first volume of the Women's Voices from Gaza series, Albatta chronicles her life and achievements, which include establishing some of the first schools for refugee children in Gaza. Her story will benefit Middle East scholars, social justice and human rights advocates, and all who want to know about the modern history of Palestine.

(University of Alberta Press, \$24.99 pb, 152 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77212-492-7, available as ebook)

25 YEARS OF ED TECH

Martin Weller

In this concise and necessary retrospective, Weller follows the trajectory of education by focusing each chapter on a technology, theory, or concept that has influenced each year since 1994, demonstrating a rich history of innovation and effective implementation of ed tech across higher education.

(University of Athabasca Press, \$21.99 pb, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77199-305-0, available as ebook)

**FIND MORE NON-FICTION PREVIEWS
AT PRARIEBOOKSNOW.CA**

Three-year-old Regina press aims to increase their genres, publish more books in a year

Team came together from different paths, took over backlist from Hagios Press

by David Jón Fuller

There's something about the wide-open prairies that fosters creativity. For Debra Bell, publisher and managing editor of Radiant Press, it makes Regina an apt place to publish great books.

"I think that Saskatchewan brings unique voices and viewpoints to CanLit," she says. "Perhaps it is the long cold winters and the feeling of isolation that invite a specific kind of thoughtful imagination and introspection to their work."

"That history of enduring brutal weather and being surrounded by an ocean of wheat helps our writers connect to the terrible loneliness of the human experience, which is a universal condition. It also contributes to a panoramic imagination."

She adds there are many visual artists in the province, and a high number of writers per capita.

Formed in 2017, Radiant Press publishes literary fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. The press published five books in 2019 and will publish six in 2020, four of which are by Saskatchewan writers, one by a Manitoban, and one by a Quebec writer.

Radiant also took over the backlist of Hagios Press, which had been publishing for 21 years, and continues to distribute their titles.

The people behind the company are Bell, who works full-time; book designer Tania Wolk, who works half-time; and publisher and operations manager John Kennedy, and artist Mia Bell, who work part-time.

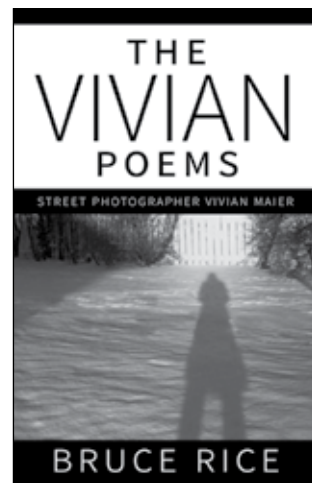
They all came to it from different creative paths.

"I worked for a publisher before I went on to work in event management, doing promotion and marketing for authors," says Debra Bell. "It was my favourite job, and I went from fundraising for non-profits to acquiring the backlist of a local publisher, while also establishing our company. I already had connections to many Saskatchewan writers, and we continue to sell and promote their books."

"John wanted to support my dream, and he became the operations manager. Tania worked at a creative agency, had extensive book design experience, and I had met her in the non-profit world. Mia is a visual artist who is also tech-savvy, plus she is my daughter, so that was a great fit."

They have published poetry by Bernadette Wagner and Victor Enns; fiction by Gloria Mehlmann and Trent Portigal; and non-fiction by Angela Long and Vic Cicansky, among other writers.

"We look for books that are unique literary fiction or poetry generally; we agreed early on that we wanted to publish the best writing we could find in Canada," says Bell. "For us that means we don't necessarily focus on authors that are established. We love to receive manuscripts from

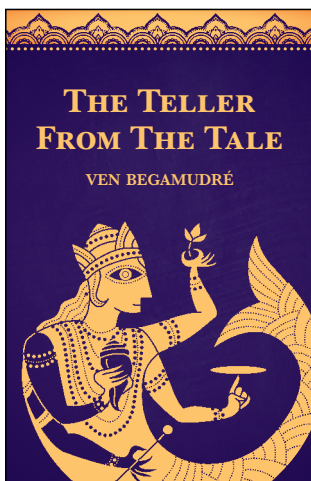


first-time authors, and we hope our audience is willing to give emerging writers a chance."

Radiant is still something of an emerging press itself, and challenges it faced in the beginning included becoming a member of publishing associations and getting a distributor. "We had to have a minimum number of books in print, which makes sense – [just] having a backlist does not equal legitimacy as a publisher," says Bell.

One of their current challenges is promoting the company to aspiring authors and readers in eastern Canada, given the realities of advertising budgets for a small press.

Bell says that going forward, they would like to publish more speculative fiction and magic realism, as well as adding graphic novels and children's books to their list. She'd like to see the press grow to the point where they can publish 10 books a year.



THE TELLER FROM THE TALE

Ven Begamudré

The three stories in this collection blend myth with realism, old-fashioned storytelling with post-modern metanarrative. The writer's wife comments on his telling of a sculptor and a princess in "Amar's Gift," a father's bedtime story receives constant feedback from his daughter, son, and wife in "Rainbow Knights," and in "Sushila Is at Home," Lord Vishnu himself is the audience.

(Radiant Press, \$22.00 pb, 180 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989274-24-8)

THE VIVIAN POEMS: STREET

PHOTOGRAPHER VIVIAN MAIER

Bruce Rice

These poems present the self-taught street photographer and nanny Vivian Maier as an abrasive, compassionate, and meditative documentarian, while they also respond to and even translate her work, offering "spaces left in the tracks of birds" (from "Proofs of Winter").

(Radiant Press, \$20.00 pb, 104 pages, ISBN: 978-1-989274-29-3)

Radiant Press also acknowledges it is located on Treaty 4 Territory. "It is extremely important to us that we make space for Indigenous authors," says Bell, who notes they plan to publish two books by Indigenous authors in 2021.

"We feel that everyone should participate in the TRC calls to action, all voices are important, and we'd like to hear more Indigenous voices. We built our houses on their land."

When it comes to upcoming books she's most excited about, Bell says that's like asking a parent who their favourite child is. "We are excited about all of our titles this year," she says. This fall they will publish *Tiny Ruins*, inter-connected flash fiction by first-time author Nicole Haldoupis, and a post-apocalyptic

novel, *Strange Labour*, by Robert G. Penner.

"Our spring books are *The Vivian Poems* by our current poet laureate, Bruce Rice, and mystical realism by Ven Begamudré, *The Teller from the Tale*."

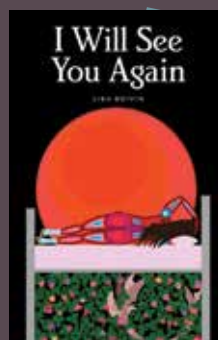
Given the diversity in titles and the press's ambitions for the future, it seems that – as on the wide-open prairie – the sky really is the limit. 🌻

"We feel that everyone should participate in the TRC calls to action, all voices are important, and we'd like to hear more Indigenous voices. We built our houses on their land." DEBRA BELL

Authentic Indigenous voices to read this summer



by Brett D. Huson
illus. by Natasha Donovan
for ages 9+



written and illus.
by Lisa Boivin
for ages 12+



by Katherena Vermette
illus. by Scott B. Henderson
for ages 11+

HIGHWATER PRESS 

highwaterpress.com

An imagined program for young offenders to work with horses comes to life in teen novel

Anita Daher's character Eugenia learns how to face, acknowledge, move through tough feelings

by Paula E. Kirman

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DIE IN THE END

Anita Daher

Yellow Dog Books-Great Plains Publications

\$14.95 pb, 272 pages

ISBN: 978-1-77337-043-9

The teen years are often difficult even under the best of circumstances, but for Eugenia Grimm, whose father died by suicide, whose brothers are drifting away, and whose mother abandoned her, these years are particularly brutal.

Eugenia, the main character in author Anita Daher's latest young adult novel, *You Don't Have to Die in the End*, is not making the most sensible decisions in life.

A violent incident leads to the possibility of incarceration, but fortunately she is instead sentenced to a program at a remote mountain ranch in Alberta, where she has the opportunity to turn her life around – if she makes the right choices in the face of darkness.

The novel was 10 years in the making.

"In 2009, I learned about a program in the U.S. where inmates worked with wild mustangs, gentled them, trained them, and readied them for sale," Daher explains. "This program had a profound impact on how they felt about themselves, and how they related to others."

Daher understood how this could work, having experience with horses herself. When she worked with her horse, she says, "the world, all my stresses, confusions, everything, just fell away. All that mattered was our connection and communication."

Daher began to imagine a program where young offenders worked with horses. "After I learned of

Canada's existing Intensive Support and Supervision Programs, everything began falling into place – though to my knowledge there are no current programs like my imagined one," she says.

While Daher lives in Winnipeg, the novel is set in Alberta, due to her first-hand research. She joined horse trainer Glenn Stewart as he took a group of horse-training students to a fly-in hunting camp in the North Rockies to work with a free-range herd and strengthen their skills in natural horsemanship. "After a week in that incredible place, I couldn't imagine setting it anywhere else," she says.

The character of Eugenia drove the story for Daher. "When I began this novel, I thought I was writing about connection – and I was. In one way or another, all of my novels are about that," she says.

"But in journeying with this character, stumbling with her, exploring her pain and her joys, she showed me it was about something much deeper, and that is what I wanted to share."

Daher wants young readers to know that, while feelings can be overwhelming, we need to address our emotions in order to move forward. "Face them. Acknowledge them. Accept them. Honour them. And then live life," she says.

In fact, Daher feels so strongly about understanding one's emotions that she wrote a note to readers at the end of the novel.

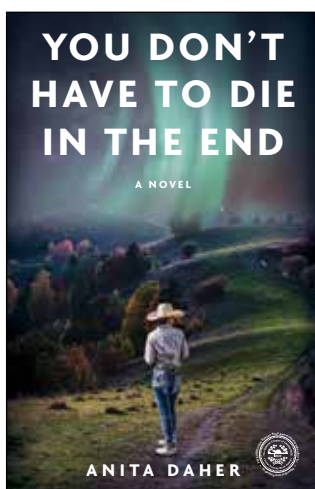
"I wanted to allow my character opportunity to show how even though she understands that depression is an illness and that her father is not to be blamed for his suicide, it is okay to feel angry.

Our emotions are honest. We can't hate ourselves for what we feel. It is in acknowledging and addressing our truths that we can begin to process and move forward." 🌿



Anita Daher

BRIAN STEFANIUK



‘What could be more exciting than an assassin riding a dragon?’ Slade asks in new fantasy tale

Middle-grade novel mixes humour, dark turns with the trial of learning who to trust

by David Jón Fuller

DRAGON ASSASSIN

Arthur Slade

Scholastic Canada Ltd.

\$14.99 pb, 360 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4431-7551-7

Available as an ebook

As young readers will find in Saskatoon-based Arthur Slade's new middle-grade fantasy, you can't keep a good assassin down.

Slade grew up reading Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonriders of Pern* books, and counts them as an inspiration for one of the central parts of *Dragon Assassin*, the first in a trilogy.

In it, Carmen is a young woman about to graduate from the Red Adept Assassin School, in a world of empires and city states. Her twin brother Corwin – responsible for the loss of her eye – always seems one step ahead of her. Their peers often look down on her for her disability.

But Carmen's future is complicated when the graduation ceremony turns into a bloodbath, and even more so when she makes a deal with a captive dragon, Brax.

“What could be more exciting than an assassin riding a dragon?” says Slade. “And in terms of the world these assassins inhabited, I wanted it to reflect our world but

a few steps removed. So there is a Greek-like city state. And an empire that's a cross between the Roman and Assyrian empires.”

Carmen and her allies live a perilous existence. They don't know who to trust, nor their enemies' reach, nor whether seeking sanctuary will doom their loved ones. Sometimes the betrayals cut deep.

“Learning who to trust is such a big part of growing up,” says Slade. “And learning to be someone who can be trusted, too.”

“My hope is that stories like these show how important friendship is when everything else is falling into chaos around you.”

The situations are often grim. Brax's fate before Carmen finds him was, at best, death, and at worst, being exploited for the magical properties of his body parts. And the disaster at the assassins' school would be enough to give any of the characters nightmares.

Slade says he worked to balance depictions of horror with narrative choices aimed at younger readers. “It is an odd mix of humour and dark turns (which I hope balance out),” he says. “I knew that I didn't want to hold back too much in terms of the dark moments because they are assassins and, well, they have a rather unsavoury job to do.”



BLACK BOX IMAGES/JERRY HUMENY

“My hope is that stories like these show how important friendship is when everything else is falling into chaos around you.” ARTHUR SLADE

“That said, many of the disturbing events happen offstage and then the characters have to react to them. This gives the reader a chance to imagine the event happening but not participate in it directly. I think that distance allows the reader a bit of a cushion from the reality of the event.”

Slade keeps his young audience in mind as Carmen faces defeat, capture, and even death.

“That's the power of fiction,” he says. “It allows us to look at complicated things (like morality or family relations) in a safe way. Who doesn't not get along with their sibling once in a while? But what if your sibling was truly evil? Would that change your relationship?”

“In a story, these types of questions are writ large and allow readers to examine them on this other stage.”

Teen's relationship to social media changes when a big chatty bird enters her life

Alice Kuipers's parrot research laid the groundwork for middle-grade story

by Amanda Sanders

WORLD'S WORST PARROT

Alice Kuipers

Orca Book Publishers

\$9.95 pb, 128 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4598-2375-4

Available as an ebook

Saskatoon-based author Alice Kuipers's latest novel for middle-grade readers is *World's Worst Parrot*, which follows Ava, a teen who strives for the impression of perfection, and Mervin, an African grey parrot she inherited, as both of their lives go through major changes.



Alice Kuipers

Parrots are complicated and intelligent animals, as Kuipers learned from a green-cheeked conure. “Years ago,” she says, “I owned a really sweet little parrot called Fernando. I learned a lot about how to train parrots and how complicated they are as companion animals from him.”

Kuipers gained specific knowledge of African grey parrots by attending meetings of the Saskatoon Pet Bird Society, where a member had one such bird.

She says that type of bird fit perfectly into this story. “African greys are the best linguists, and I needed a bird that could talk well for this story, and I needed a bird that was quite big so he could fill up lots of space in Ava’s life!”

In creating the character Melinda, who teaches Ava how to care for Mervin, Kuipers was inspired by members of the Saskatoon Pet Bird Society. “It’s actually quite hard looking after a parrot,” she says, “and they gave me lots of advice about how to keep a parrot happy and well looked after.”

In the age of social media, the pressure to appear to have the perfect life can be overwhelming. This novel opens with Ava creating a social media post with the perfect lighting and the perfect caption about just finishing a workout and

her plans for the day – all of which are a lie. Ava’s parents are going through a divorce, and the reaction of her mother hasn’t made anything easy.

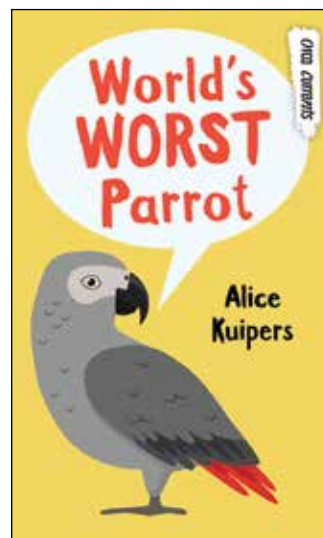
Kuipers says, “It’s hard for Ava when she sees other people online living amazing lives. She wants to present that her life is perfect, too, although it’s not.”

Kuipers believes that social media and its pressures are a big part of life for many people now. “How do we make ourselves real online when that means facing reality?” she says. “I think that’s an interesting question, and one Ava has to answer in the book.”

Mervin really throws a curveball into Ava and her family’s life, and he challenges some of Ava’s values that need re-examining.

“The idea of a difficult and ungainly parrot being thrown into Ava’s mix felt like a ‘perfect’ way to make her story come to life,” says Kuipers. Her “perfect” friends don’t support her the way she needs, her family doesn’t spend time together, and her social media presence is largely a lie – Mervin was the solution.

Ava strives for social media stardom, and Kuipers loved the prospect of getting her there in an unexpected way. “I thought it would be fun and challenging to put her in a situation where people were interested in her on social media, but not for the reasons she wants. What does a character do then? Do they change their ambition? Or do they embrace the way life is taking them? Ava has to decide.” 🌿



MORE YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN TITLES

PICTURE BOOKS

JUST ENOUGH SERIES BUNDLE

Dr. Jillian Roberts, illustrated
by Cindy Revell

This series of four books provides an engaging introduction for very young readers to the topics of reproduction, diversity, death, and separation in a way that is gentle, age-appropriate, and accessible. The titles include *Where Do Babies Come From?*, *What Happens When a Loved One Dies?*, *Why Do Families Change?*, and *What Makes Us Unique?* (Orca Book Publishers, \$69.95 hc set, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2532-1)

LITTLE CLOUD: THE SCIENCE OF A HURRICANE

Johanna Wagstaffe, illustrated
by Julie McLaughlin

Beautifully detailed illustrations and a compelling narrative integrate science and storytelling to show how a simple cumulus cloud transforms into a full-blown hurricane. A whimsical and rich layout includes sidebars, call-outs, and diagrams.

(Orca Book Publishers, \$19.95 hc, 32 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4598-2184-2, available as ebook)

WHERE ARE YOU, AGNES?

Tessa McWatt, illustrated by Zuzanna Celej

This imagining of the childhood of Agnes Martin, a famous abstract expressionist artist, explores how what she sees and feels in the Canadian Prairies in the early 20th century – the straight horizon, the feeling of the sun, the movement of birds' wings, and shapes in the wheat – might have influenced her adult work.

(Groundwood Books, \$18.95 hc, 44 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77306-140-5, available as ebook)

EARLY YEARS CHAPTER BOOKS

THE ICE CHIPS AND THE STOLEN CUP

Roy MacGregor and Kerry MacGregor,
illustrated by Kim Smith

Members of the Ice Chips hockey team pretty much know what they're doing as far as time travel goes, but this time things go a bit haywire, and someone from the past leaves a very important trophy on their hometown rink – now they have to figure out how to take it back to its rightful home.

(HarperCollins, \$16.99 hc, 208 pages, ISBN: 978-1-4434-5999-0, available as ebook)

MIDDLE YEARS GRAPHIC NOVELS

CRITTERS: UNDERDARK

Allan Dotson

A group of young monsters must work together and overcome their differences to survive the hostile world of the Underdark after they escape from a crashed train where they had been kept in cages.

(Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, \$19.95 pb, 160 pages, ISBN: 978-1-988783-43-7)

GOOD BOYS

GMB Chomichuk

Cats at school bully Dogs to the point where Dogs are no longer attending, and soon the bullying spreads throughout the city. Using cats and dogs as an analogy, this graphic novel asks readers to examine their own biases – how they are learned and the consequences of biases going unchecked.

(Portage & Main Press, \$29.00 pb, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-1-55379-752-4)

MIDDLE YEARS NON-FICTION

MEGA REX: A TYRANNOSAURUS NAMED SCOTTY

W. Scott Persons IV

Featuring profiles of "team rex" as well as illustrations and photos, this book provides an in-depth look at the largest and longest-lived *T. rex* ever found, including his discovery and the process of digging up a fossil, the lives of tyrannosaurs, and the

meaning behind Scotty's unusual facial horns and many wounds.

(Harbour Publishing, \$13.95 pb, 128 pages, with colour illustrations & photos, ISBN: 978-1-55017-905-7)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

THE AUTOMATIC AGE

GMB Chomichuk

With evocative and stark illustrations, this story of a father and son navigating an automated apocalypse portrays their struggle against the ever-present technological surveillance and the robot search teams that are out to remove all humans.

(Yellow Dog-Great Plains, \$14.95 pb, 112 pages, ISBN: 978-1-77337-040-8)

SPIN

Colleen Nelson

Fifteen-year-old Dizzy's career as a DJ is taking off, but her life gets very complicated when a family secret – that her mother is the famous singer, Georgia Waters – is revealed, just as Georgia comes to town for a concert.

(Dundurn, \$12.99 pb, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-45974-496-7, available as ebook)

Quand le virtuel rencontre le réel

Un nouveau roman jeunesse où la communauté profite d'un jeu vidéo

par Lucien Chaput

JUNK CITY

David Baudemont

collection eSKapade

Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume (plume.refc.ca)

14,95 \$ papier, 190 pages

ISBN : 978-2-924237-63-2

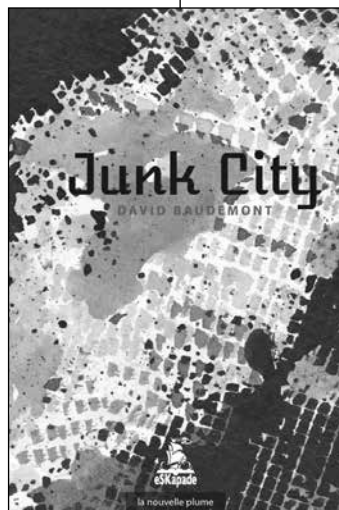
À *Junk City*, personne ne fait cavalier seul. Personne ne gagne ou ne perd. Si les producteurs font faillite, les consommateurs quittent et la ville meurt.

Le sixième titre de littérature jeunesse de David Baudemont, *Junk City* est le fruit d'une complicité entre l'auteur et 16 élèves de cinquième année de l'École canadienne-française de Saskatoon. Durant une dizaine d'ateliers, ils ont développé ensemble les idées et les personnages utilisés par l'auteur pour écrire le livre.

« L'un des buts des ateliers, c'est de les faire aimer la création littéraire », explique l'ancien géologue. « Mais c'est aussi une initiation à la création. C'est un processus qui est un peu plus étranger à cette génération parce qu'ils ont l'habitude à aller chercher des choses sur Internet et moins l'habitude peut-être de l'écrire eux-mêmes. »

« Les élèves écrivent de petits résumés d'histoire à partir d'œuvres d'art. Ensuite, ils votent pour l'histoire qui leur plaît le plus. Quand ils ont trouvé le sujet, il y a une espèce d'adhérence totale de tout le groupe à ce sujet-là qui les concerne de façon très actuelle. »

Le résumé d'un jeune d'origine marocaine, inspiré d'un tableau art naïf de Maude Lewis, a été choisi. Baudemont dit, « Ce jeune a imaginé l'histoire d'un garçon qui passe beaucoup de temps sur les jeux vidéo. Son père est marin et pense que c'est une perte de temps. Un jour, ils partent ensemble en bateau et



When virtual meets reality

Community benefits from a video game in new young adult novel

by Lucien Chaput

JUNK CITY

David Baudemont

collection eSKapade

Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume (plume.refc.ca)

\$14.95 pb, 190 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924237-63-2

In *Junk City*, there are no solitary knights. Nobody wins and nobody loses. If the producers go bankrupt, the consumers leave. And the city dies.

Junk City, David Baudemont's sixth young adult novel, is the result of a collaboration between the author and 16 Grade 5 students of École canadienne-française in Saskatoon. In the course of 10 workshops, they developed the ideas and the characters used by the author to write the book.

"One of the objectives of the workshops is to make them enjoy literature," says the former geologist. "But it is also an introduction to the process of creative writing. It is something that is more foreign to this generation because they are used to getting these things from the Internet and less perhaps from writing them themselves.

"Students write short summaries of stories inspired by a painting. They then vote on the story that pleases them the most. Once they've decided on the subject, there is a complete adherence from the whole group for that subject that concerns them in their actual lives."

For *Junk City*, the class chose a summary – written by a student of Moroccan origin – based on a Maude Lewis folk art painting.

Baudemont says, "The youngster imagined the story of a boy who spends a lot of time playing video games. His father, who is a fisherman, thinks that this is a waste of time. One day, they leave by boat and are surprised by a storm.

une tempête s'abat sur eux. Grâce à l'ordinateur et ses connexions de jeux vidéo, ils arrivent à avoir du secours. »

Les jeunes ont dû créer quelques nouveaux jeux vidéo pour le livre, y compris *Junk City*, ce jeu avec les poubelles d'une grande ville.

« On voit chez cette génération un souci très aigu de l'écologie et du problème de déchets », dit Baudemont. « Ça revenait comme un des soucis majeurs : comment est-ce qu'on va faire pour continuer à vivre sur cette planète avec les problèmes écologiques et de déchets majeurs. »

Qu'une poursuite solitaire comme un jeu vidéo ait un élément communautaire fut toute une révélation. « Disons que ça nous ouvre les yeux, nous cinquantenaires, soixantenaires, face à quelque chose qu'on ne comprend pas beaucoup et qui nous est presque rébarbatif », dit-il.

« Le côté communauté est absolument essentiel dans ce phénomène de jeux vidéo. Il y a une dimension presque universelle qu'on ne peut pas nier et il y a, est-ce que c'est une fausse impression ou une vraie impression de puissance qui se dégage de tout ça. »



David Baudemont

Thanks to his computer and his connections with video games, they manage to find help and return safely.”

The students had to create a few video games of their own for the book, including *Junk City*, a game with the garbage cans of a big city.

“We find in this young generation a very pronounced concern for the environment and the problems associated with waste,” says Baudemont. “It came back as one of the major concerns: what will we do to continue to live on this planet with the major environmental

problems and waste.”

That a solitary pursuit associated with video games has in fact an element of community came as a revelation. “Let’s say that it opens our eyes, those of us who are in our 50s and 60s, when faced with something that we don’t understand very much and is off-putting,” he says.

“The community dimension is absolutely essential to this phenomenon of video games. This is an almost universal dimension that we cannot deny, and there is an impression, false or otherwise, of power that comes from all of this.”

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Janus : Un chat à deux visages et de nouvelles perspectives

« Tout est dans la façon dont on observe les choses », indique Lyne Gareau de cette créature d'inspiration romaine

par Liz Katynski

LE CHAT JANUS

Lyne Gareau

Les Éditions du Blé

19,95 \$ papier, 184 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924915-18-9

Disponible en livre électronique

ISALOU

Lyne Gareau

Les Éditions des plaines

9,95 \$ papier, 100 pages

ISBN: 978-2-89611-802-1

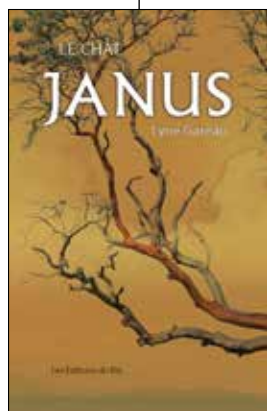
Un chat, une retraite, et un amour se profilent dans le nouveau livre de Lyne Gareau.

Le Chat Janus nous raconte trois histoires. Le tout se passe en Colombie-Britannique, en français.

« J'écris la réalité de la Colombie-Britannique, en français. C'est ce que j'aime écrire », dit l'auteure qui est née au Québec et habite en Colombie-Britannique depuis 40 ans. Elle a enseigné au primaire et ensuite à l'université, alors qu'un jour elle se rend compte que la vie filait et qu'il fallait qu'elle quitte son travail pour écrire. Elle commence son premier livre, *La Librairie des Insomniacs*, avant de quitter son poste à Capilano University.

Écrire à plein temps c'est beaucoup de travail, mais, dit-elle, « J'adore ça. J'ai beaucoup d'idées. »

L'histoire de « Le Chat Janus » prend son inspiration de Janus, le dieu romain des commencements et des fins.



Short story collection's titular tale invokes two-faced cat and new perspectives

'It's all in the way you look at things,' Lyne Gareau says of the Roman-inspired creature

by Liz Katynski

LE CHAT JANUS

Lyne Gareau

Les Éditions du Blé

\$19.95 pb, 184 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924915-18-9

Available as an ebook

ISALOU

Lyne Gareau

Les Éditions des Plaines

\$9.95 pb, 100 pages

ISBN: 978-2-89611-802-1

A cat, retirement, and love can all be found in the new collection of stories by Lyne Gareau.

Le chat Janus shares three stories. All of them take place in British Columbia, in French.

"I write about the reality of life in British Columbia, in French. This is what I love to write," says the author who was born in Quebec but has lived in British Columbia for the past 40 years.

She once taught primary school, and then university, until one day she realized life was passing her by, and she had to quit her job to write. She began her first book, *La Librairie des Insomniacs*, before she left Capilano University.

Full-time writing is a lot of work, but, she says, "I love it. I have lots of ideas."

The title story, "Le Chat Janus," is inspired by Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings.

« La protagoniste est prise entre le passé et le futur », dit Gareau. « Elle a peur de réconcilier les regrets et peur du futur. C'est un peu science-fiction, où on doit tout quitter pour trouver une solution. »

Il y a aussi un chat Janus, un chat avec une tête et deux visages, ce qui n'est pas normal, mais qu'on peut trouver beau de sa propre façon.

Gareau dit, « Tout est dans la façon dont on observe les choses. »

La deuxième histoire, « Où on se trouve », c'est une œuvre de fiction autobiographique qui emprunte de sa propre expérience de quitter son poste et commencer sa retraite de l'université avant l'âge de 60 ans. « Jamais on ne parle de la retraite dans la littérature. Il fallait que je me dévoue à mon œuvre, écrire. »

Gareau écrit aussi des romans pour jeunes adultes. Son plus récent, *Isalou*, c'est l'histoire d'une petite fille qui voit le monde de deux façons – comme Isabelle, petite fille et comme Isalou, petit loup. Elle fait sa transition avec un tambour magique. La fille découvre les loups sauvages du nord de Bella Bella, Colombie-Britannique, chez le peuple autochtone Heiltsuk. Elle se trouve dans le corps d'un petit loup.

« Le tambour traverse la culture. Son tambour est tout croche, pas comme les autres. Elle joue de ce tambour. La fille comprend que la vie c'est comme un cercle. Tout se rejoint. »

Gareau croit que c'est important pour les jeunes d'apprendre à se mettre dans la peau des autres.

« Le monde irait mieux. » 🌿

“The protagonist is stuck between the past and the future,” says Gareau. “She is afraid to reconcile the past, and she is afraid of the future. It’s a bit of science fiction, where you have to leave everything behind in order to find your solution.”

There is also a Janus cat, a cat with one head and two faces, something that is not natural but that can be found to be beautiful in its own way.

Gareau says, “It’s all in the way you look at things.”

The second story, “Où on se trouve,” is autobiographical fiction that shares her personal experience of leaving work and beginning her retirement before the age of 60. “We never talk about retirement in literature. I had to dedicate myself to my craft, writing.”

Gareau also writes young adult novels. Her most recent, *Isalou*, is the story of a young girl who comes to see the world from two perspectives – her own, as Isabelle, and that of a young wolf, as Isalou. She makes the transition with a magic drum.

The girl discovers the wild wolves north of Bella Bella, British Columbia, the home of the Heiltsuk Nation. She finds herself in the body of a young wolf.

“The drum is part of many cultures. Her drum is different, not like the others. She plays it. She learns that life is like a circle. Everything is connected.”

Gareau believes it is important for young people to learn how to see things from the perspective of others. She says, “The world will be a better place.” 🌿



Lyne Gareau

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VIENNENT DE PARAÎTRE EN FRANÇAIS

ARTÉMIS VOLE AU SECOURS DE LA PLANÈTE

Ingrid Alesich, illustrations de Sean Winburn, traduit par Martine Noël-Maw
Artémis, l'albatros, est bouleversée de voir d'énormes îles de déchets en plastique dans les océans. Elle vole autour de la planète pour découvrir d'où vient le plastique meurtrier. Ce livre est une belle introduction au besoin de protéger l'environnement. Artemis is an albatross who loves our planet Earth. She is upset about huge islands of plastic garbage in the oceans. This book is an excellent introduction to the need to protect the environment and the planet. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, album jeunesse, 14,95 \$ papier, 24 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-61-8)

BUFFET FROID

Louise Dandeneau
Une série de nouvelles sur le thème de la vengeance, ces brefs récits teintés d'humour noir démontrent une grande imagination et un sens du rythme indéniable de la part de l'auteure. With vengeance as their theme, these short stories tinged with dark humour show the author's vivid imagination and an undeniable sense of rhythm. (Éditions du Blé, nouvelles, 19,95 \$ papier, 136 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-15-8, disponible en livre électronique)

CONTES BLEUS À ENCRE ÉCONOME

Ian C. Nelson
L'auteur a créé une série de micro nouvelles où il invite le public à trouver les liens et les thèmes qui lui semblent intrigants et surprenants. Un texte économe peut bien cacher des surprises! In this collection of microfiction, the author invites his readers to find the links and themes that are intriguing and surprising. With few words, one can definitely hide many surprises! (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, nouvelles, 18,00 \$ papier, 96 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-65-6)

ET FUIR ENCORE

Rossel Vien
Ce livre est une nouvelle édition du premier recueil de nouvelles de Rossel Vien, fils adoptif, méconnu, du Manitoba où il a vécu sa vie adulte, parue en 1972 sous un pseudonyme chez Hurtubise dans la collection L'arbre qui a accueilli Anne Hébert, Gabrielle Roy, Jacques Ferron, Yves Thériault. This book is a new edition of Rossel Vien's first short story collection, published in 1972 under a pseudonym by the Québec publishing house Hurtubise in the prestigious L'arbre collection, alongside such greats as Anne Hébert, Gabrielle Roy, Jacques Ferron, and Yves Thériault. (Éditions du Blé, nouvelles, 19,95 \$ papier, 186 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-09-7, disponible en livre électronique)

INÉDIT

Eric Plamondon
Cette pièce de l'auteur Métis pluridisciplinaire (arts visuels, cinéma, théâtre) Éric Plamondon s'inscrit dans l'oralité d'une langue française qui vient du cœur et des pensées, encore en formation, des personnes issues du territoire de la Rivière-Rouge. *Inédit* s'insère dans une tradition d'art Queer qui vit son drame en subtilité. This play by Métis multidisciplinary artist Eric Plamondon finds its place in the orality of a French language that flows from the hearts and minds of the peoples of the Red River territory. *Inédit* is part of a Queer Art tradition that lives its drama subtly. (Éditions du Blé, Nouvelle collection Rouge, théâtre, 14,95 \$ papier, 52 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924915-12-7, disponible en livre électronique)

LE JONGLEUR DE NOTRE-DAME ET AUTRES SAYNÈTES POUR JEUNES ET MOINS JEUNES

Marcien Ferland
Du conte à la comédie, du drame historique à la comédie musicale, ces courtes pièces de théâtre ont été conçues pour initier les jeunes aux arts dramatiques. Les élèves du primaire et du secondaire tout autant que les adultes trouveront plaisir à les jouer et à les voir sur scène. This collection of short plays was created to initiate children to the dramatic arts – tales, comedy sketches,

historical dramas, and musical comedies – for actors and spectators of all ages. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, théâtre jeunesse, 20,00 \$ papier, 152 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-60-1)

MONICA-CLAIRE AU FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR

Ginette Fournier, illustrations de Chantal Piché
Ce deuxième tome de la collection Monica-Claire est une histoire d'amitié et de joie de vivre franco-canadienne, qui rend hommage au plus grand festival hivernal de l'Ouest canadien et à l'époque des voyageurs. This second picture book in the Monica-Claire series is a story of friendship and Franco-Canadian *joie de vivre* that pays tribute to Western Canada's biggest winter festival as well as the life and times of the fur trade voyageur. (Éditions des Plaines, album jeunesse, 11,95 \$ papier, 32 pages, ISBN : 978-1-989282-17-5)

PEINES PERDUES

Gilbert Troutet
Les vingt nouvelles de ce recueil proposent une variété des situations où évoluent les héros de ces aventures. D'une plume alerte, dans un style personnel et imagé, l'auteur nous fait ressentir les émotions et les angoisses de ses personnages, qui sont autant de paysages intérieurs. Twenty short stories present 20 different situations for the characters caught in these various adventures. Through the author's personal and vivid style, the reader feels the fears and emotions and discovers the internal landscape of each character. (Éditions de la nouvelle plume, nouvelles, 18,00 \$ papier, 180 pages, ISBN : 978-2-924237-66-3)

TOUT PETIT TOI

Richard Van Camp, illustrations de Julie Flett, traduit par Rachel Martinez
Cet album cartonné au ton poétique, destine aux bébés et aux bambins, célèbre tous les enfants du monde et la joie qu'ils y apportent. This poetic board book for babies and toddlers celebrates all the joy that children bring to the world. (Orca Book Publishers, album cartonné, 19,95 \$ couverture rigide, 26 pages, ISBN : 978-1-4598-2544-4, disponible en livre électronique)

Dispatches

Insights from an Indigenous educator



“The Maemaegawaehnssiwuk did not appear to all children, only to those who lost their way and needed to be brought home and restored to their families.”

BASIL JOHNSTON, *THE MANITOU: THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD OF THE OJIBWAY*, 1995

by Greg Pruden

Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? Who am I? The Honourable Justice Senator Murray Sinclair identifies these existential questions as key to a child’s education.

This is especially true for Indigenous students who live in a colonial society that continues to deny and reject the legitimacy of Indigenous worldviews and to erase Indigenous identity and presence.

Educators understand that in order for Indigenous students to achieve the academic success and sense of well-being necessary to flourish in Canadian society, education must point students toward the answers to those questions posed by Senator Sinclair. Education for Indigenous students must, like the *Maemaegawaehnssiwuk* (the little people of the oral tradition of the Anishinaabek), help to bring those students who are lost back “home.”

That is, education must help Indigenous children to discover themselves, to know the true history of their nations and the true colonialist history of Canada, to experience the beauty and profundity of traditional teachings, and to share the stories of Indigenous men and women and boys and girls whether contemporary or of the past.

There is no generic, one-size-fits-all culture among Indigenous nations; each is unique. Prairie schools and classrooms should include texts and other resources that explore and reflect the specific histories and cultures of Indigenous Peoples of the Prairies. Luckily for teachers and students, there are more quality titles than ever by Prairie authors, both Indigenous and not, doing just that.


It would be impractical to attempt a comprehensive listing of quality books with a focus on the Indigenous Prairie experience.

However, such a list, intended for high school students and teachers, would include recent and not-so-recent titles such as:

- *Rooster Town: The History of an Urban Métis Community, 1901–1961*, by Evelyn Peters, Matthew Stock, and Adrian Werner,
- *Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Issues in Canada* by Chelsea Vowel,

- *A Really Good Brown Girl* by Marilyn Dumont,
- *North End Love Songs* by Katherena Vermette,
- *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life* by James Daschuk,
- *Stolen City: Racial Capitalism and the Making of Winnipeg* by Owen Toews,
- *In Search of April Raintree* by Beatrice Mosionier,
- *The Rez Sisters* by Tomson Highway, and many, many others.

Prairie books such as these can equip those Indigenous students who are lost in a confusing and dangerous world with the knowledge, strength, and confidence to find their way back home. 🌿

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After 15 years teaching high school English, drama, history, and French, **GREG PRUDEN** served as a First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives consultant for Manitoba Education for about 15 years, retiring in August 2019.

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

AMANDA SANDERS lives in Leduc, Alberta, and is a stay-at-home mom to her two-year-old son.

BOOKENDS

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On the cover: *Louis Riel Day* by Sheldon Dawson Acrylic on poster board, 8" x 8".

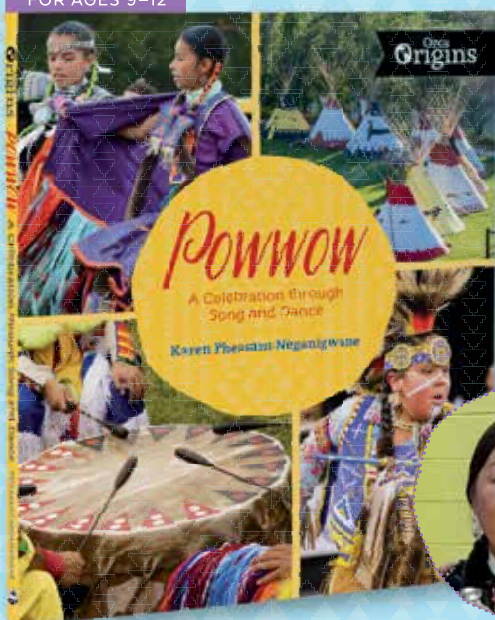
Correction: In the article "Teen werewolf who couldn't change deserved her own novel" from Issue 75, we referred to the

home of the Pack as the Reserve. In fact, the Pack lives on the Preserve in the book.

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NONFICTION
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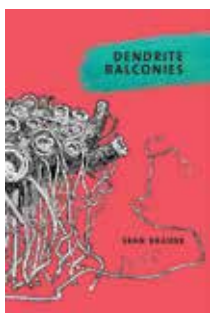
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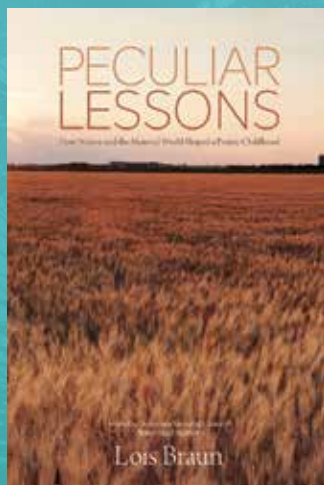
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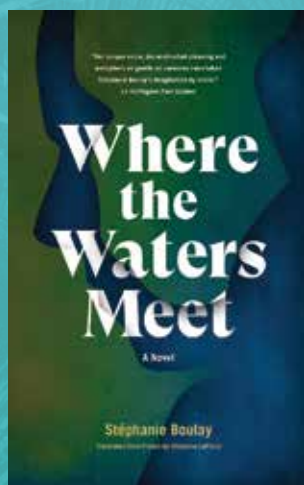
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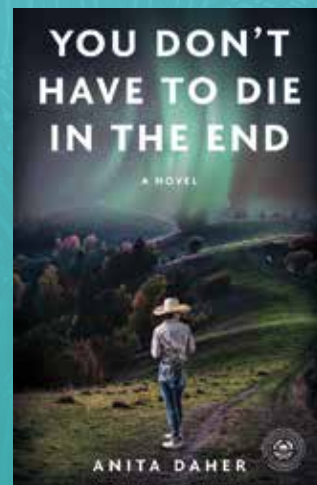


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