

Homegrown heroes such as weightlifter **Doug Hepburn**, swimmer **Elaine Tanner**, skater **Karen Magnusson** and sprinter **Harry Jerome**—the first Canadian to officially hold a world track record—all learned the hard way that society only loves a winner.

FIRST FAST RUNNER

World record holder Harry Jerome's story is especially compelling because he overcame racial hurdles as the only black athlete in his North Vancouver high school.

Doctors predicted Jerome would never walk again after he suffered a severe injury at the Perth Commonwealth Games in 1962 but he set seven world records, becoming the first human to run 100 metres in ten seconds flat.

Now film and television producer **Fil Fraser** has written the first full-length biography of one of Canada's greatest athletes, **Running Uphill: The Short, Fast Life of Harry Jerome** (Dragon Hill \$18.95, distributed by Lone Pine).

In the words of the World and Olympic champion sprinter **Donovan Bailey**, “Harry Jerome is Canada’s **Jessie Owens**. He faced the same battles in his time as Jessie did. Frankly, Harry Jerome’s face should be on a dollar bill. He should be a national hero for what he went through.”

Jerome won gold medals for Canada at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1966, and at the 1967 Pan American Games, but he “only” had one bronze medal to show for his appearances at three Olympic games, resulting in some unsympathetic press coverage.

Just as **Cassius Clay** tossed his Olympic boxing medal off a bridge in disgust, Harry Jerome learned to distrust media and the whimsical nature of public notoriety.

Upon his retirement from competition in 1969, Jerome accepted an invitation from Prime Minister **Pierre Trudeau** to work within Canada's new Ministry of Sport, but he resigned when a sponsorship deal he had helped to arrange with Kellogg’s to support amateur athletics was kiboshed by the government.

The grandson of **John Armstrong Howard**, a railway porter who had competed for Canada in the 1912 and 1920 Olympics, Harry Jerome died of a brain tumour in 1982 and was buried in Mountainview Cemetery in North Vancouver.

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan—where Jerome was born in 1940—named the Harry Jerome Track Complex in his honour and the Harry Jerome Sports Centre opened in Burnaby in 1997.

The Harry Jerome Awards annually recognize outstanding achievements by members of Canada’s black community and there is a nine-foot-high bronze statue of Harry Jerome on the Stanley Park seawall.

1-896124-13-5

BC
BOOKWORLD

Summer Issue
Vol. 21, No. 2

Publisher/ Writer: **Alan Twigg**
Editor/Production: **David Lester**

Publication Mail Agreement #40010086
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: BC BookWorld,
3516 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6R 2S3

Produced with the sponsorship of **Pacific BookWorld News Society**. Publications Mail Registration No. 7800.
BC BookWorld ISSN: 1701-5405

Advertising & editorial: **BC BookWorld**, 3516 W. 13th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2S3. Tel/Fax: 604-736-4011 • Email:
available on request. Annual subscription: **\$19.08**

Contributors: Grant Shilling, Mark Forsythe, Sheila Munro,
Joan Givner, Louise Donnelly, Hannah Main-van der Kamp,
Heather Ramsay, Cherie Thiessen, Shane McCune.
Writing not otherwise credited is by staff.
Photographers: Barry Peterson, Laura Sawchuk.
Proofreaders: Wendy Atkinson, Betty Twigg.
Design: Get-to-the-Point Graphics. **Deliveries:** Ken Reid

We acknowledge the
assistance of Canada
Council and the Province of
British Columbia, through the
Ministry of Community,
Aboriginal, and Women's
Services.



THE CANADA COUNCIL
FOR THE ARTS
SINCE 1957

LE CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU CANADA
DEPUIS 1957



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
We acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia
through the British Columbia Arts Council.

All BC BookWorld reviews are posted online at
www.abcbookworld.com

INDEX to Advertisers

Anvil Press...30
Arsenal Pulp Press...30
Banyen Books...40
BC Book Prizes...28
BCLA...34
Belshaw, Cyril...34
Bolen Books...39
Book Warehouse...37
Caitlin Press...34
Cormorant Books...25
Crown Publications...39
Douglas & McIntyre...2
Douglas College/EVENT...42
Douglas College...26
Ekstasis Editions...8
Ellis, David...27
Federation of BC Writers...34
Ferne Writers Conference...19
Festival of the Written Arts...4

Friesens Printers...42
Galiano Island Books...40
Givner, Joan...41
Granville Island Publishing...42
Harbour Publishing...44
HarperCollins...16, 32
Heritage House...12
Hignell Printing...42
Lammar Printing...43
New Star Books...32, 40, 41
Nightwood Editions...35
Oolichan Books...20
Orca Books...24
Penguin Books...9
People’s Co-Op Books...34
Playwrights Canada Press...41
Positive Connections...41
Printorium...42
Random House...6

Reckoning 07...5
Ronsdale Press...18
Royal BC Museum...28
Sandhill...10
Save-On Foods...39
Secondhandbooks...42
SFU Pubworks...18
SFU Writing & Publishing...20
Sidney Booktown...34
Sono Nis Press...14
Temeron...32
Thomson, Ann...34
Triple AAA Photography...34
UBC Press...27
Vancouver Desktop...42
Woewoda, James...42
Wood Lake Publishing...28
Yoka’s Coffee...39

TO ADVERTISE CALL **604-736-4011**

HOCKEY = RELIGION?

Andrew Podnieks in *A Canadian Saturday Night* (Greystone \$26.95) states, "It is quintessentially Canadian that the more successful our hockey players are, the more humble they are about their accomplishments."

Highlighting **Sidney Crosby** as an example, Podnieks suggests hockey greats invariably store their trophies downstairs "on the basement wall or cheap metal shelving, far out of sight."

Like Douglas Coupland's books that have collected iconic imagery pertaining to Terry Fox, Vancouver and Canada, Podnieks' *A Canadian Saturday Night* provides some surprising background information.

- The selection of three stars at the end of each Hockey Night In Canada broadcast was generated as an adjunct to Imperial Oil commercials (folks older than fifty will recall **Murray Westgate** and the Happy Motoring song—"always look to Imperial for the best"). Back in the 1950s, the main HNIC sponsor, Esso, had a gasoline called "Three Stars" so the tradition of picking the three outstanding players began as a marketing scheme.

- Hockey cards were invented by the St. Lawrence Starch Company in order to promote Bee Hive Corn Syrup. The company would mail one hockey card at a time—for free—in exchange for every three box tops from St. Lawrence products that were sent to them. In the days before television, this was the only way fans across Canada could see what the 120 players in the NHL looked like.

"The players back then always looked much older than their age," writes Podnieks. "They had stern expressions, even when they were smiling. They seemed suspicious of what they were being asked to do—pose—as if by doing so they revealed something about themselves that they didn't want to, like tribesmen from the Brazilian rain forest who feared their souls would be stolen if they were photographed."

Looking for other iconic images that capture the spirit of the game, Podnieks has included **Shania Twain** singing the national anthem dressed in a skimpy and sparkling Habs uniform, the cover of **Roch Carrier**'s children's book *The Hockey Sweater*, **Stompin' Tom** and the (good 'ol) *Hockey Song*, the pair of skate blades that are used as front door handles on **Wayne Gretzky**'s swanky Toronto eatery and—of course—**Paul Henderson**'s goal against the Ruskies.

No sign of **Punch Imlach**'s fedora, octopus on the ice in Detroit or **Bobby Orr**, but Podnieks

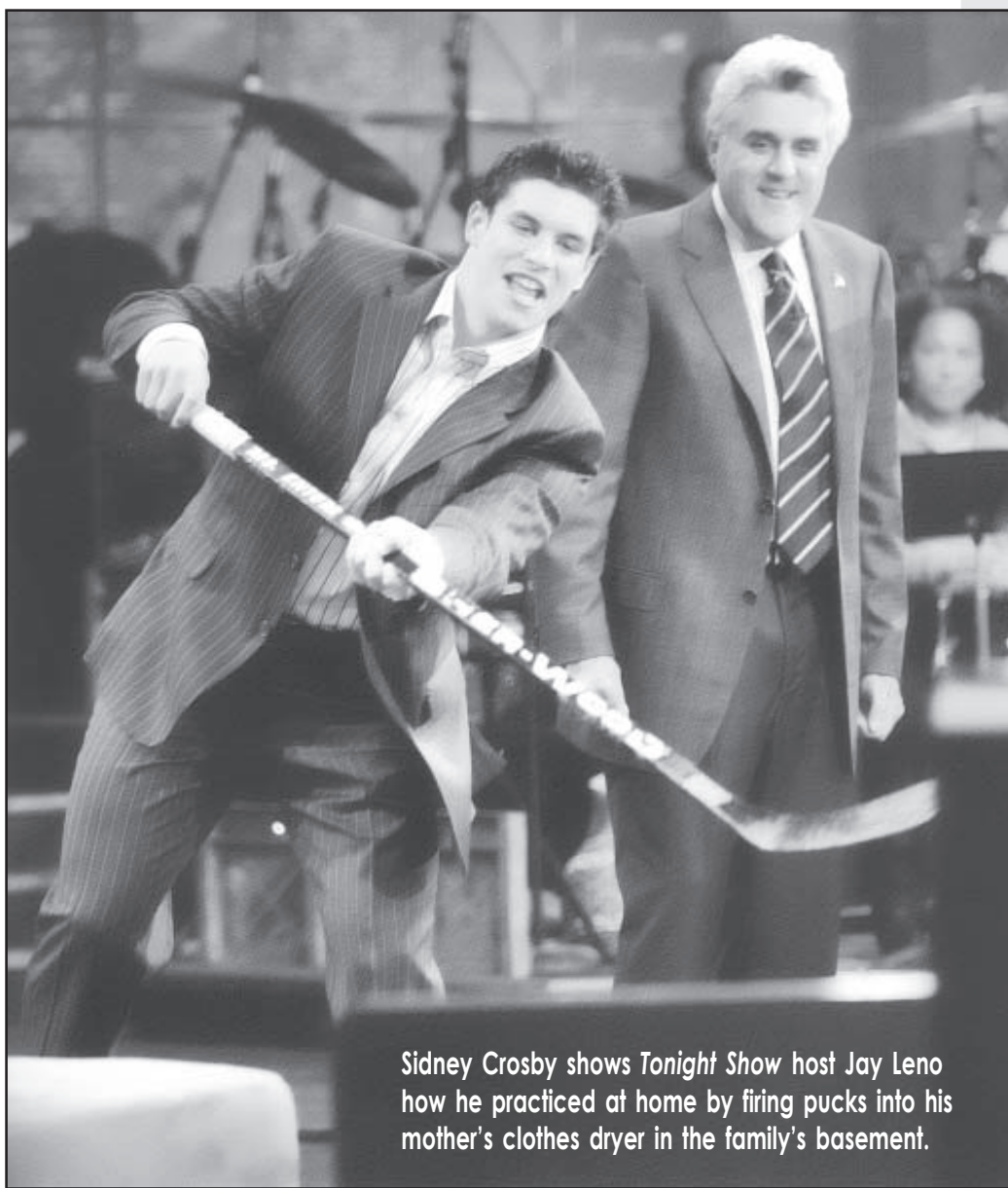
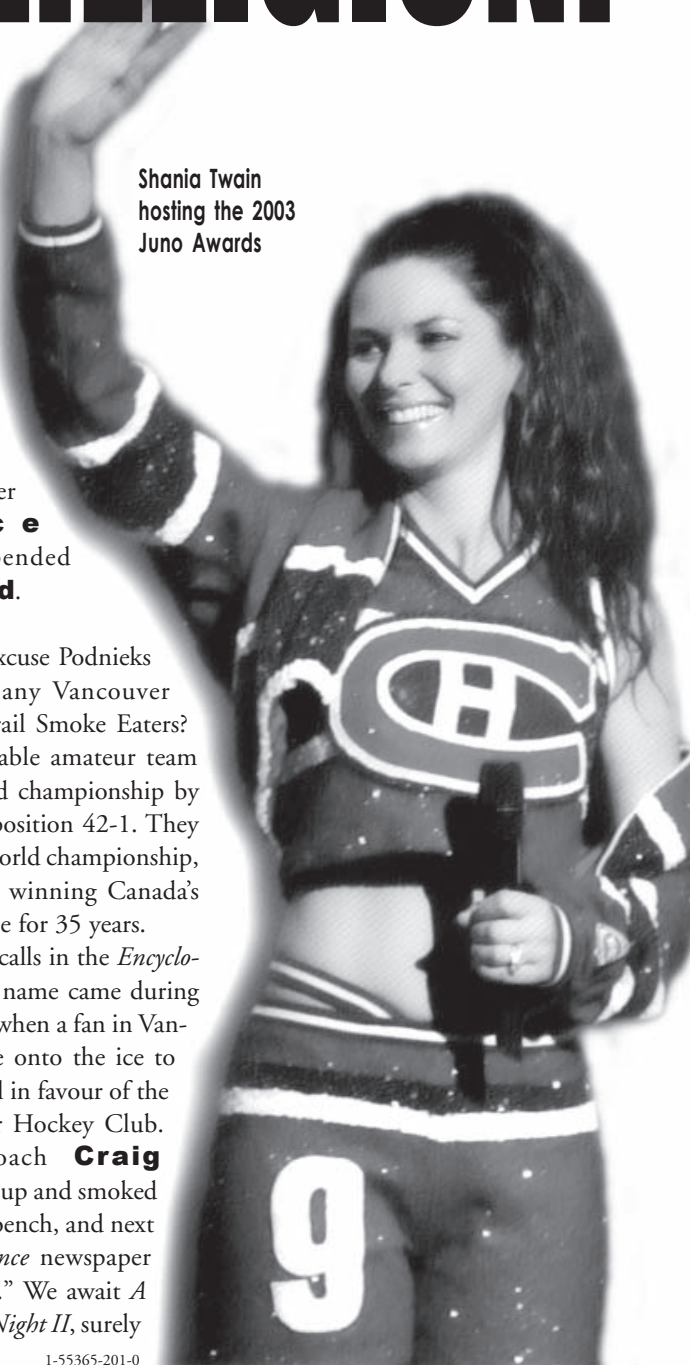
does include road hockey, backyard rinks, hockey cards, the Sutter brothers, the Niedermayer brothers, the Hanson brothers from the **Paul Newman** movie *Slapshot*, the Lucky Loonie and the Montreal riot at the Forum in 1955 after **Clarence Campbell** suspended **Rocket Richard**.

One can easily excuse Podnieks for not including any Vancouver Canucks, but no Trail Smoke Eaters? B.C.'s most remarkable amateur team won the 1939 world championship by outscoring their opposition 42-1. They also won the 1961 world championship, beating Russia 5-1, winning Canada's last international title for 35 years.

As Silas White recalls in the *Encyclopedia of B.C.*, "The name came during the 1928-29 season when a fan in Vancouver threw a pipe onto the ice to protest a referee's call in favour of the visiting Trail Senior Hockey Club. Trail playing coach **Craig Kendall** picked it up and smoked it on his way to the bench, and next morning *The Province* newspaper christened the team." We await *A Canadian Saturday Night II*, surely in the works.

1-55365-201-0

Shania Twain hosting the 2003 Juno Awards



Sidney Crosby shows *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno how he practiced at home by firing pucks into his mother's clothes dryer in the family's basement.

SHORT LIST

Kicking & dreaming



Charmaine Hooper

In 1973, there were only three girls' soccer clubs in British Columbia. By 1980, there were 317 teams playing under the BC Girls Soccer Association. In 2004, there were more than 347,000 women and girls playing nationally on registered teams—42 percent of Canada's 825,000 players.

With profiles of Canada's top female players such as **Charmaine Hooper** and **Kara Lang**, *Goals and Dreams* (Nightwood \$14.95), by goalkeeping coach **Shel Brodsgaard** and journalist **Bob Mackin**, recalls and celebrates the evolution of Canadian women's soccer highlighting the Under-19 Women's World Championships in Edmonton and the Women's World Cup, in which Canada beat Argentina, Japan and China to clinch fourth place.

0-88971-205-0

"Burnaby Ryan"

Cliff Ronning and "**Burnaby Joe**" **Sakic** aren't the only successful hockey players from Burnaby. Drafted second overall in 1978 by the Washington Capitals, a franchise that made him the youngest captain in NHL history, **Ryan Walter** played nine seasons with the Montreal Canadiens, winning a Stanley Cup in 1986, learning French and once being selected to play in the all-star game.

During more than one thousand games in the NHL, during which he was elected vice-president of the NHL Players' Association, Ryan Walter played his last two years with the Vancouver Canucks, serving as an assistant captain.

Upon retirement from hockey in 1993, Walter, an ardent Christian, has morphed into a play-by-play sidekick for hockey broadcasts, created a hockey board game called *Trade Deadline* and appeared as the referee in the movie *Miracle*. His motivational book is **Off the Bench and into the Game: Eight Success Strategies from Professional Sport** (Heritage \$19.95).

1-894974-23-9

Sheepshanks' discovery

A high school annual approach to history won't gain much critical renown, but **Craig H. Bowlsby**'s self-published, illustrated, 381-page reference work on ice hockey in British Columbia, from 1895 to 1911, certainly merits some recognition.

The Knights of Winter (\$90 includes shipping) unearths lists of all players, all teams, records of games, etc., that are about as beguiling as Egyptian hieroglyphics. What does it all add up to? No matter. He got the excavation job done for others.

Bowlsby cites the diary of Reverend **John Sheepshanks** in January of 1862 as the first recorded reference to hockey being played in British Columbia, at New Westminster following a freeze-up of the Fraser River.

0-9691705-4-8

Further info: www.abcbookworld.com

Our Emily

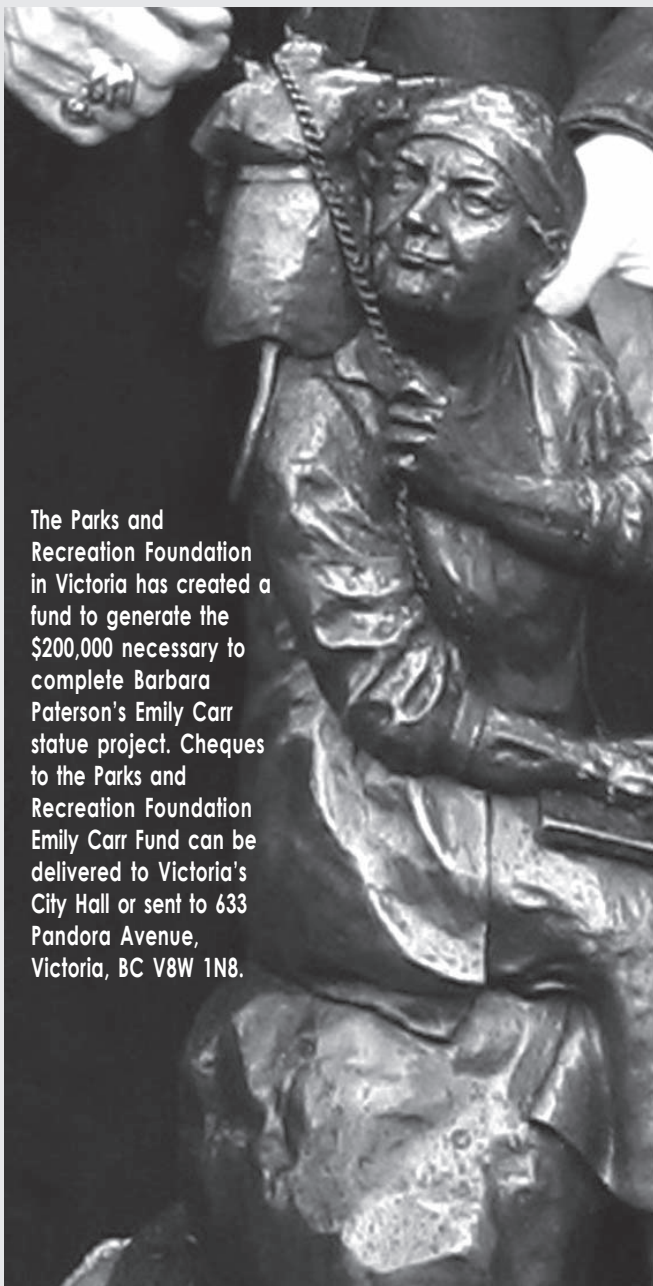
In February, Edmonton-based sculptor **Barbara Paterson** unveiled a 60-pound brass maquette at Emily Carr House depicting **Emily Carr** with one of her dogs and her pet monkey Woo on her shoulder. Paterson hopes she will be contracted to produce a bronze statue approximately 1.5 times the original size of B.C.'s best-known artist.

"I really think Victoria is missing the boat," she told the *Victoria News*, "if they don't [get it made]. You've got the biggest icon in the world with Emily Carr—she's world famous and a character. So I'm ready, but I can't wait forever."

Meanwhile **Ann-Lee Switzer** has taken over the role played by Carr's long-time friend and editor **Ira Dilworth**, preparing 61 of Carr's short stories for **This and That: The Lost Stories of Emily Carr** (Touchwood \$17.95), touted by publisher **Gordon Switzer** as the first collection of unpublished Carr stories to appear since 1953.

Profits from books sales will go towards the erection of Paterson's statue to be called "Our Emily".

9781894898614



The Parks and Recreation Foundation in Victoria has created a fund to generate the \$200,000 necessary to complete Barbara Paterson's Emily Carr statue project. Cheques to the Parks and Recreation Foundation Emily Carr Fund can be delivered to Victoria's City Hall or sent to 633 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC V8W 1N8.

Genni get your opera

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A PRE-WINDOWS ERA, back when people were starting to discover email, **Genni Gunn** was asked to write an original libretto by composer **John Oliver** for the Vancouver Opera.

Gunn penned a high-tech opera about two young professionals, Alex and Valerie, who meet on-line, become fascinated with each other, but remain safely faceless—until they finally meet for real.

"There was no internet dating," Gunn recalls, "so it was a kind of sci-fi glance into the future." The future had to wait.

Funding dissipated and the project called *Alternate Visions* was detoured into development hell until **Pauline Vaillancourt**, Creative Director of Chants Libres, fell in love with Gunn and Oliver's interdisciplinary opera about five years ago.

The opera *Alternate Visions* premiered in Montreal in May, coincidental with the release of Gunn's new book **Faceless** (Signature Editions \$14.95), a poetry collection that simultaneously explores the growing dichotomy between intimacy and technology, anonymity (facelessness) and contact (love).

"I guess I've had a love/hate affair with technology for a long time," she writes. "Our wired connections provide a sense of intimacy—we can communicate with everyone globally; we can express ourselves daily in blogs and videos; our private lives can now be lived publicly through television reality shows, through 24-hour views into our spaces in front of our computers."

"But we have become voyeurs, stationary creatures typing our emotions onto keyboards, looking into the cool eyes of digital cameras. While all this appears to have us more connected to everyone, in reality we are more faceless and more alone than ever, our eyes reflecting blue screens, our selves flickering in darkened rooms."

1-897-109-16-4


Genni Gunn

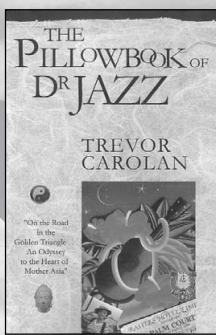
Celebrating 25 years publishing fine literature!

EKSTASIS EDITIONS ¥ WWW.EKSTASISEDITIONS.COM



The Mysticism of Sound
INAYAT KHAN

ISBN 1-896860-11-7
ISBN 978-1-896860-11-4
Sufism 128 pages
\$15.95



The Pillowbook of Dr Jazz
TREVOR CAROLAN

ISBN 1-894800-79-6
ISBN 978-1-894800-79-2
Fiction 320 pages
\$21.95

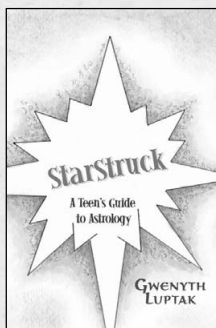


Hierarchy of Loss
STEVEN MCCABE

ISBN 1-894800-94-X
ISBN 978-1-894800-94-5
Poetry 96 pages
\$18.95

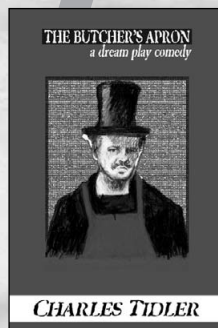
Starstruck
a teen's guide to astrology
GWENYTH LUPTAK

ISBN 1-894800-60-5
ISBN 978-1-894800-60-0
Astrology 188 pages
\$18.95



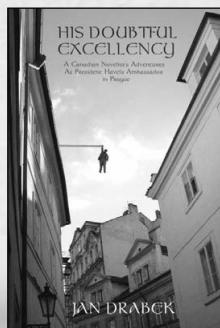
The Butcher's Apron
a dream play comedy
CHARLES TIDLER

ISBN 1-894800-88-4
ISBN 978-1-894800-88-5
Drama 108 pages
\$18.95



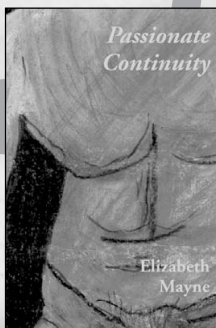
Beyond the Pale
ELIZABETH RHETT WOODS

ISBN 1-894800-86-9
ISBN 978-1-894800-86-0
Fiction 280 pages
\$21.95



His Doubtful Excellency
JAN DRABEK

ISBN 1-894800-87-7
ISBN 978-1-894800-87-7
Memoir 220 Pages
\$21.95



A Passionate Continuity
sex at seventy
ELIZABETH MAYNE

ISBN 1-894800-85-0
ISBN 978-1-894800-85-3
Poetry/illustrations
120 pages \$19.95



Poets & Centaurs
YOLANDE VILLEMAIRE
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH
BY LEONARD SUGDEN

ISBN 1-894800-84-2
ISBN 978-1-894800-84-6
Fiction 132 pages
\$19.95

EKSTASIS EDITIONS ¥ BOX 8474, MAIN POSTAL OUTLET ¥ VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 3S1

Pre-eminent PAT

B.C. Book Prizes 2007

A few years back, much-nominated **Patrick Lane** was down on his luck, always the bridesmaid, never the bride—until he won the first \$25,000 BC Award for Canadian Non-Fiction in 2005.

The former sawmill worker and drifter has now taken home the fourth annual *Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence* amid a shower of praise at the 23rd annual BC Book Prizes gala at Government House.

As she praised Patrick Lane and his partner **Lorna Crozier** for being, "British Columbia's greatly admired and pre-eminent literary couple," Honourable **Iona Campagnolo** told the audience that Lane's words are "sharpened and ground and groomed to perfection."

The Lieutenant Governor also telephoned poet **P.K. Page** who told her, "He has the greatest sensitivity to words of anyone writing today."

For good measure, jury member **Jack Hodgins** noted, "It has been said of his prose that it can be savoured like the music of Mozart."

After a few sentences of acceptance, Lane was overcome with emotion. Choking back tears, he was unable to finish his speech.

The other members of the selection committee were Vancouver Public Library's **Paul Whitney** and former director of the Festival of the Written Arts, **Gail Bull**.



The most eloquent remarks to the capacity audience were made by presenters Peter Such, Carla Funk and Ted Harrison, proving again that nervous, prize-winning authors don't necessarily make ideal public speakers.

The other winners were:

Carol Windley, *Home Schooling* (Cormorant Books), Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize Sponsored by Friesens, Webcom and Transcontinental

Don McKay, *Strike / Slip* (McClelland & Stewart), Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize Sponsored by the BC Teachers' Federation.

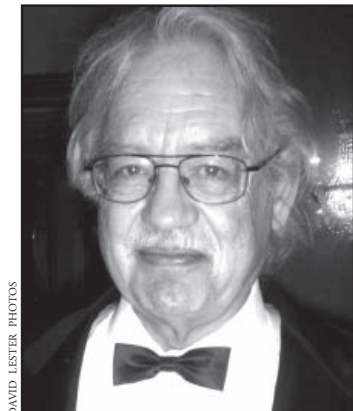
Heather Pringle, *The Master Plan: Himmeler's Scholars and the Holocaust* (Viking), Hubert Evans Non-fiction Prize Sponsored by Abebooks.

Katherine Gordon, *Made to Measure: A History of Land Surveying in British Columbia* (Sono Nis Press), Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize Sponsored by Sandhill Book Marketing



SHARON BRADLEY PHOTO

This year's BC Book Prizes dinner was held at Government House in Victoria.



DAVID LESTER PHOTOS



William Deverell: emcee; **Katherine Gordon**: winner of Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize; **Attendees**: Nancy Flight and Andrew Wooldridge



DAVID LESTER PHOTO

Lieutenant Governor Campagnolo and William Deverell watch Patrick Lane get a kiss.

Sarah Ellis, *Odd Man Out* (Groundwood Books), Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize sponsored by the BC Library Association.

Maggie de Vries and **Renné Benoit**, *Tale of a Great White Fish: A Sturgeon Story* (Greystone Books), Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize Sponsored by Kate Walker and Company, Michael Reynolds and Associates and Craig Siddall and Associates.

David Suzuki and **Greystone Books**, *David Suzuki: The Autobiography*, BC Booksellers' Choice Award in Honour of Bill Duthie Sponsored by BC Booksellers' Assn. and Duthie Books.



All awards for the event, emceed by **William Deverell**, were presented prior to the meal. The BC Book Prizes were established in 1985 to celebrate the achievements of B.C. writers and publishers.

For more details, visit www.bcbookprizes.ca



DAVID LESTER PHOTOS

Carol Windley: Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize winner

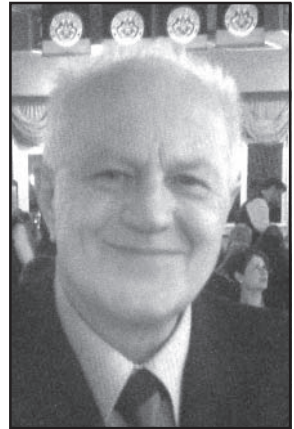


Rob Sanders (Greystone): Booksellers' Choice Award



DAVID LESTER PHOTOS

Carla Funk: accepted Livesay Poetry Prize for Don McKay



Peter Such: presented the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize



SHARON BRADLEY PHOTO

B.C. Historical Federation Winners

The B.C. Historical Federation also announced its winners in the 2006 Historical Writing Competition.

The winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing is **K. Jane Watt** for *High Water: Living with the Fraser Floods* (Dairy Historical Society of British Columbia).

Mary-Ellen Kelm took second prize for editing *The Letters of Margaret Butcher: Missionary-Imperialism on the North Pacific Coast* (University of Calgary Press). **Kathryn Bridge** placed third for *A Passion for Mountains: the Lives of Don and Phyllis Munday* (Rocky Mountain Books).

In addition honourable mention citations went to **Jan Hare** and **Jean Barman** for *Good Intentions Gone Awry: Emma Crosby and the Methodist Mission on the Northwest Coast* (UBC Press), **Judith Williams** for *Clam Gardens: Aboriginal Mariculture on Canada's West Coast* (New Star Books) and **Peter Grauer** for *Interred with their Bones: Bill Miner in Canada 1903-1907* (Partners in Publishing).

This article is the sixth in a series celebrating enduring B.C. books.

WILDERNESS REBOUND

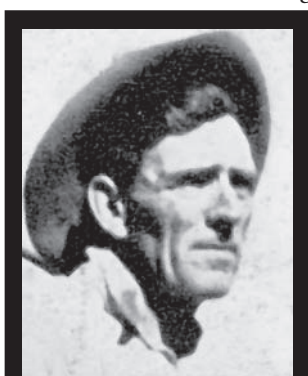
WRITTEN BY LONGHAND, THEN TRANSCRIBED ONTO A REMINGTON TYPE-writer, **Eric Collier's** family memoir of "roughing it in the bush" and saving the beaver population, **Three Against the Wilderness** (1959), was condensed by *Reader's Digest* and re-issued in at least seven translations around the world. Yet Collier's Cariboo-based bestseller—one of the classics of B.C. literature—is rarely cited in major guides to Canadian literature.

Born in Northampton, England in 1903, tall and lean Eric Collier was the son of a successful iron foundry owner.

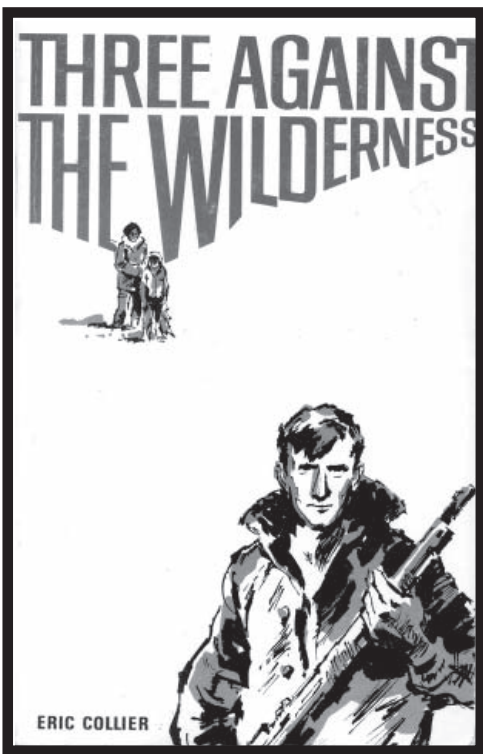
At age 14 he joined the navy and served for two years as a signalman prior to being sent to Canada to work as a "mud pup" on his uncle's property near Clinton, B.C. in 1920. That uncle was **Harry Marriott**, author of *Cariboo Cowboy*. Collier also worked at Riske Creek store

for **Fred Becher**, at the Gang Ranch, and at Cotton Ranch. He married **Lillian Ross** in 1928 at Riske Creek and took up meadows at Madden Lake in 1929. Two years later, in spite of his wife's hip deformity due to a childhood accident, the couple took a wagon, three horses and their 18-month-old son Veasy, along with a tent, some provisions and \$33, and reached the Stack Valley where they lived in an abandoned cabin built by trapper and carpenter **Tom Evans**. In a few years they relocated to Meldrum Creek, ten miles away, where they lived in a tent and built their own cabin. Collier and his wife Lillian had promised her 97-year-old grandmother, LaLa, to bring the beavers back to the area that she knew as a child before the white man came. Collier imported several pairs of beavers, and raised the area's water table sufficiently to reinstate the beaver population.

In 1939, Eric Collier sold his favourite saddle horse in order to purchase a radio and hear news of World War II. In 1946, Collier became the first president of the B.C. Registered Trappers Association, an organization he co-founded with **Ed Bobbs**. With the second



Eric Collier



Original paperback cover

tests for the Conibear trap invented by **Frank Conibear** and increasingly turned his hand to writing for *Northwest Digest* in Quesnel, the *Williams Lake Tribune* and *Outdoor Life* in the U.S. In 1949 he became the first non-American to win that magazine's Conservation Award.

In the 1950s the staff at *Outdoor Life* encouraged him to consider writing a book about his experiences.

Soft-spoken and usually unassuming, Eric Collier moved his family to Riske Creek in 1960. He sold his 38-mile trapline to **Orville Stowell** and **Val Coulthard** on March 26, 1964 for \$2,500. He died at Riske Creek on March 15, 1966.

The *Williams Lake Tribune's* obituary stated, "To watch Eric Collier stride through the woods was a joy to behold.... Gun crooked comfortably in his arm he moved along as easily as the city dweller would stroll down Granville Street."

Collier's wife and trapping partner Lily moved to Williams Lake and died in 1992. Their son Veasy, schooled by correspondence, served in the Korean War, married **Judy Borkowski**, and settled at Williams Lake. Erected in 1946, the Collier's much-deteriorated, second, four-room log home at Meldrum Creek was slated for demolition in 1989, under the auspices of the Chilcotin Military Reserve north of Riske Creek, but local protests in the Cariboo encouraged Captain **Paul Davies** and the Canadian Army Engineers to resurrect the remote dwelling and its log barn with new roofing, shakes, doors and windows. A very rough road leads 40 kilometres off Highway 20 to the site—one of the few literary historical sites to be preserved in B.C.

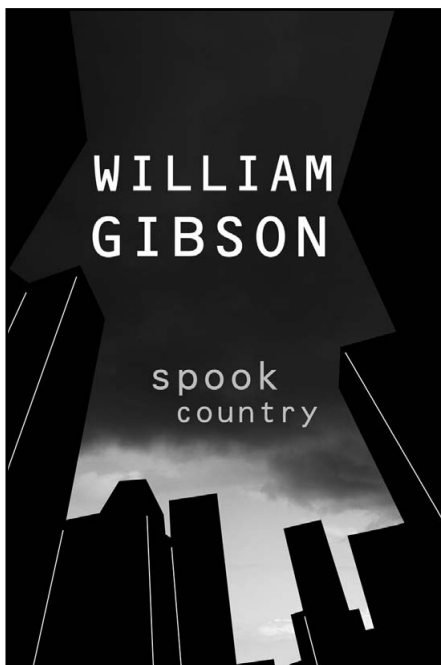
Three Against the Wilderness (Irwin Publishing, 1959; Touchwood Editions, 2007, \$19.95).

978-1-894898-54-6

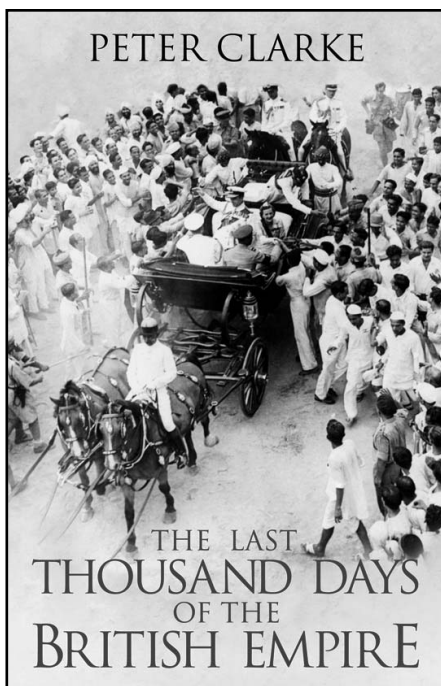
In January, *The New York Times* declared 2007 to be The Year of the Penguin. We agree.



July



August



September

Penguin.ca





Greenpeace protesters approaching CFB Cold Lake gate are intercepted by several RCMP officers.

NUKES AT NANOOSE & WHY THEY ARE STILL THERE

Lest we forget, military historian **John Clearwater**, a former editor-in-chief of the *Arms Control Reporter*, has examined the extent to which Canada has consistently failed—ever since cruise missile testing was introduced to the high Arctic in 1978—to fully disclose details of military operations within Canadian territory by United States personnel in *Just Dummies: Cruise Missile Testing in Canada* (University of Calgary Press \$34.95).

Using recently de-classified documents, Clearwater recalls 1970s testing of the U.S. artillery shell that was designed to carry the neutron bomb, as well as military exercises involving the B-2 stealth bomber. Of particular interest to British Columbians, he examines the kowtowing of federal Liberals to American interests in the wake of Premier **Glen Clark**'s efforts to prevent U.S. nuclear submarines from using the waters of Nanoose Bay, north of Nanaimo.

Clark's stance was in response to the Americans' refusal to negotiate salmon fishing quotas at the time. The stakes were high. If Clark succeeded in cancelling the U.S. Navy's Nanoose Bay lease, the **Jean Chrétien** government feared the White House would enact penalties on Canada similar to those that crippled New Zealand's economy after New Zealand's decision to prevent U.S. nuclear vessels from having access to its harbours in the 1980s. Clearwater recalls how and why the

Defence and Foreign Affairs Departments of Canada convinced Chrétien to expropriate the Nanoose Bay waters for federal jurisdiction. In response, Clark made international headlines by describing the actions of the federal government as treasonous.

Having dared to confront the military might of the world's most powerful country, and embarrass Ottawa at the same time, B.C.'s daredevil leader was submarined by a smear campaign that

began with a BCTV camera crew accompanying an RCMP raid on his home. His political career was scuttled by allegations that he had favoured a gambling casino bid in exchange for a beneficial construction rate for his back porch.

"We never say No to any testing," Clearwater has concluded, "sometimes we try to hold it off for as long as we can. I think the trend here is, no matter what the U.S. asks for, eventually we say Yes."

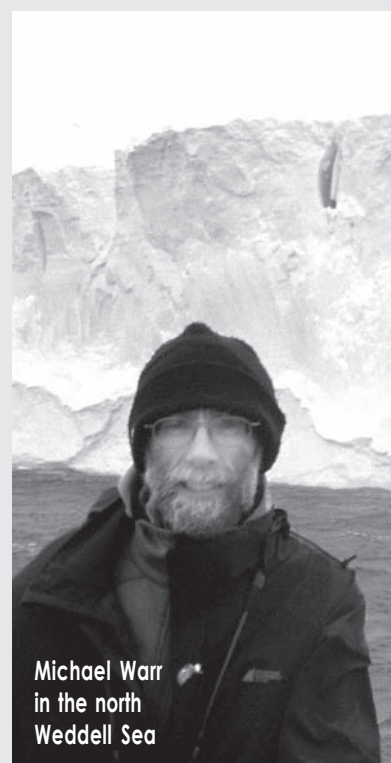
1-55238-211-7

It's the climate, stupid

In his self-published **South of Sixty: Life on an Antarctic Base** (Antarctic Memories \$24.95), **Michael Warr** of Prince George recalls his return visit to Antarctic in 2005 during which he learned husky dogs were no longer welcomed as an alien species. Since then tourism has increased to 32,000 humans per year. Warr agrees with ex-Vice President **Al Gore**'s assertion that when it comes to global warming, Antarctica is a proverbial canary in the coalmine. Trouble is, you need to be a scientist to see the problem. "In a few places along the Antarctic Peninsula there is a bit more rock showing, but mostly one has to rely on scientific information," he says. "For example, 87% of the Antarctic Peninsula glaciers are receding and the only two flowering Antarctic plants are spreading southwards. "Al Gore in *An Inconvenient Truth* showed Antarctic ice cores that indicated that the temperature and CO2 levels had risen most strongly in the last 200 years out of the last 600,000. More recent ice cores now can go back 900,000 years, and still the only exceptional rise in temperature and CO2 is in the industrial age of the last 200 years." A member of the British Antarctic Club, the American Polar Society and the New Zealand Antarctic Society, Warr first worked in the Antarctic for two years as a meteorologist in the early 1960s—for one year at Deception Island and one year at Adelaide Island. Having returned to Antarctica as a cruise ship historian in 2006, Warr is currently preparing a touring slide show exhibit.

0-9738504-0-X

Antarctic Memories Publishing, 2640 Ewert Crescent, Prince George, B.C. V2M 2S2



Michael Warr in the north Weddell Sea

Moondancing to bliss & frostbite

Solitude can lead to madness or God. For mountain climber **Paul Hawker**, it was God. But others aren't so blessed.

Prolonged and enforced solitude for **José Padilla**, the only American citizen to be openly tried as an "enemy combatant," for instance, has resulted in insanity. After he was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare airport in 2002, Padilla was kept in a tiny cell at a navy prison in Charleston, South Carolina, shackled for 1,307 consecutive days, without natural light or a clock or a calendar, wearing heavy goggles and headphones.

In the process of defending their client, who now has a personality "like a piece of furniture," in a Miami courtroom, Padilla's attorneys are forcing mainstream American media to consider how and why the CIA has routinely approved sensory deprivation, sensory overload and isolation techniques in prisons at Guantánamo Bay, Iraq and Afghanistan to induce extreme anxiety, hallucinations and "significant psychological distress."

The case of Sydney-based Paul Hawker, a New Zealand-born television writer and producer, is radically different. In his memoir **Soul Quest: A Spiritual Odyssey through 40 Days and 40 Nights of Mountain Solitude** (Northstone \$22.95), Hawker describes 37 days in the proverbial wilderness, ascending Mount Arete in New Zealand, surviving frostbite after climbing closer to God.

"I welcomed my first night in the wilderness totally alone," he writes. "I felt no apprehension and had no fears for my safety. Away from all other humans, there was no one who could do me any harm."

Although Hawker began his adventure unfit and overweight, struggling to carry his 40-kilo pack, his self-induced isolation from society in the centre of the Tararua range, near the country's capital of Wellington, ultimately allowed him to hear the voice of God, overcoming what is typically referred to as a mid-life crisis.

Forty climbers had died in that wind-swept Tararua range. Hawker recalls how he almost became fatality number forty-one.

On Day 35, with the snow-capped mountains stretching for dozens of kilometres in both directions, with only a rat named Rattles for a companion in his mountain-top hut, Hawker felt his inner voice beseeching him like a lover—so he sang.

"A deluge of song lines tumbled out as I clumsily tried to express my total awe and appreciation," he writes, "... After dinner, I danced outside the hut, stamping my feet as I sang *Moondance*, *Blue Moon* and any other song with moon in it, including *Silent Night* and other snowy Christmas carols. I was intoxicated. I was in love with life, God, the universe, everything."

Hawker felt he was experiencing a perfect day with a perfect God in a perfect place. Trouble was, Hawker remained outside too long. He could stick a needle into his big toes and feel nothing. Having made a film about two men who had their frostbitten feet amputated just below the knee, the ecstatic seeker found himself derailed by frostbite, fear and panic.

So worried he couldn't eat or sleep for two days, Hawker used his emergency radio to get some medical advice. With winds gusting at 150 kilometres-per-hour, he half-walked, half-slid down the rocky mountainside. On what would have been the 40th night of his journey, New Zealand was deluged by its worst storm of the year.

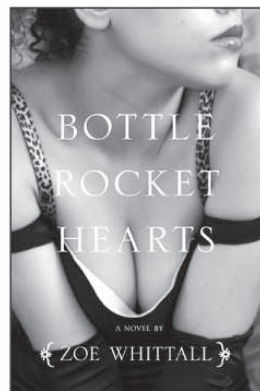
"So, were my frostnipped toes good luck or bad luck? Who knows? We are sensible to leave such conclusions to God... On the mountain I found my true home. It is with The Creator, The Source, who wants nothing more than to spoil me with blessings galore."

Hawker's reward for survival was learning not to shut the Divine out of his life. Upon his return to his family, he was so full of love for everyone it was almost embarrassing for them. "It was as if a long-lost love button deep within me was now on an external console ready to be triggered by any passing word, scene, or thought."

978-1-55145-44-0

Paul Hawker: began his adventure unfit and overweight, struggling to carry his 40-kilo pack.

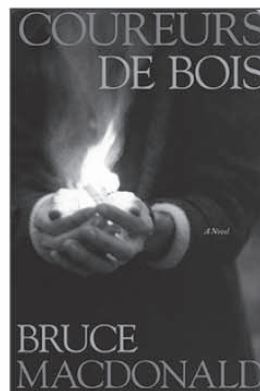
SUMMER HITS



Praise for Zoe Whittall's *Bottle Rocket Hearts*

"Urgent... satiric... lively and winsome."
— Philip Marchand, *Toronto Star*

"Awesome...luminous... gendering-bending glory."
— Heather O'Neill, author of *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, winner of CBC Radio's *Canada Reads*, 2007



Praise for Bruce MacDonald's *Coureurs de Bois*

"Striking...quirky...edgy..." — *Quill & Quire*

"MacDonald's voice is fresh and seductive. He's impudent. He takes risks." — *The Globe and Mail*



Just Released. Darcy Tamayose's *Odori*

Marks the debut of a remarkable new novelist—a story of family, art, war, and survival.

BE AN ICONOCLAST.
READ DEEPLY.



From Cormorant Books. Where Imagination Takes Flight.

Ishmael Beah, 27-year-old poster boy for United Nations efforts to eliminate boy soldierdom, has a pensive moment at Vancouver's Best, a Kitsilano coffee shop.

LAURA SAWCHUK / TRIPLE AAA PHOTO

LOST 'N' FOUND

ISHMAEL BEAH'S SOBERING ACCOUNT OF his terrified wanderings in Sierra Leone before he became a boy soldier, as well as his recovery from his two years of killing others, can be likened to the historic memoir of **Olauda Equiano**, the ex-slave from Gambia who provided one of the few extensive written accounts of what it was like to be taken from Africa to the Americas in the eighteenth century.

Just as *The Life of Olauda Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African. Written by Himself*, published in 1789, can be criticized for being overly-polished, even stilted, critics can easily suggest *A Long Way Gone* (D&M \$26.95) is gap-ridden and suspiciously erudite, yet both accounts will remain fascinating and disturbingly admirable for centuries to come. The testimonies of Equiano and Beah, although separated by several centuries, represent the experiences of millions of others, both persecutors and victims, whose lives and deaths can otherwise only be imagined or, worse, overlooked and gradually forgotten.

Reading Ishmael Beah's edited tale is like staring at the stars and trying to imagine the rest of the universe. Ration-

ISHMAEL BEAH's memoir of his horrendous experiences in Sierra Leone have made him—bizarrely—the first author published from B.C. to appear on *The Daily Show* with comedian Jon Stewart.

ally, we know we're part of the same overall system. Or, as **Goethe** stated, "I can think of no crime that I'm incapable of committing." But most North Americans live under a bubble of alternate reality, buffered from beastliness, protected by the thin veneer of civilization.

Beah's eye witness reportage, as an ex-participant, is more powerful and memorable than any **Anderson Cooper** segment on CNN. The world of boy soldiers, wielding their AK47s, high on drugs, wearing bizarre costumes, being taught to rape, burn and pillage—that gawdawful world of unmitigated barbarism that was previously "out there"—enters your head and never

leaves, even though Beah has refrained from rendering a full confession.



Initially *A Long Way Gone* seems like a movie, a living nightmare transferred to the screen of our imagination. We collect information, scene by scene, but the narrator isn't particularly likeable or even particularly engaging. He's mainly a 12-year-old kid who likes rap music. We learn precious little about his family background. Even more problematic, we are given little information to discern whether or not Ishmael Beah developed a moral compass before he got lost, figuratively and literally.

Our hero gets separated from his vil-

lage by a surprise attack by deadly rebels. Most readers won't even be able to find Sierra Leone on a map, and we're not sure about the politics of Sierra Leone—in fact, the differences between government soldiers and the rebels remain vague—so the overall lack of orientation provided, either from the narrator or the packaging, is perhaps a literary conceit, a way of encouraging us to appreciate the senselessness of the violence.

Ishmael Beah and some of his young friends run into the bush where they nearly starve. Not every kid who grows up in Africa knows how to live off the land. Ishmael's main skill is memorizing rap lyrics. A companion asks, "How many more times do we have to come to terms with death before we find safety?" But is that what he really said? Or is this fabricated dialogue, imagined in retrospect?

Some of Beah's descriptions of the jungle and his fear are impressively poetic, as if he has been taking creative writing courses in New York (where he now lives), but most of the sentences are starkly rendered. Can we really trust him as our guide? Is he telling us every-

continued on next page

NOW IN PAPERBACK

The NATIONAL BESTSELLER and WINNER of the GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD FOR NON-FICTION

THE GOLDEN SPRUCE

"A powerful work that will change how many people think about nature."

—Sebastian Junger

For 300 years, a mythical golden spruce on the Queen Charlotte Islands was sacred to the Haida, respected by loggers, protected by environmentalists, and loved by all who saw it.

Then one man deliberately felled it and mysteriously disappeared.

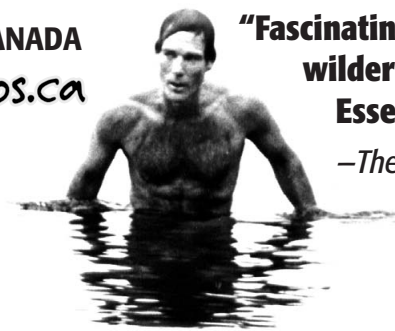
JOHN VAILLANT

"[Like] Jon Krakauer and Sebastian Junger, Vaillant deftly peels away the surface story to explore the psychology below ... an intense mystery and a sweeping history ... a terrific read."

—National Post



VINTAGE CANADA
www.bookclubs.ca



"Fascinating ... a gripping wilderness thriller ... Essential reading."

—The Georgia Straight

A TRUE STORY OF MYTH, MADNESS AND GREED

continued from page 15

thing that happened to him? We are being escorted through a nightmare by someone we still don't really know.

Villagers are deeply afraid of a wandering pack of young teens so Ishmael and his friends must keep travelling aimlessly. Eventually they are frightened by a terribly strange roar in the distance—only to discover they have reached the Atlantic Ocean.

Our compassion kicks into gear about one-third of the way through Beah's odyssey. The boys hide in the bushes and observe a band of young rebels who have just successfully burned and destroyed three villages. The bravado of these guiltless monsters is deeply disturbing and sickening to Beah, but it is also chilling and poignant to the reader. We know he has seen the future—and he just doesn't know it yet.

Eventually the boys recognize someone from their former village, Gasemu, a kindly bachelor who is gathering bananas. Beah learns he is only within a few miles of being reunited with his mother. Excited to hurry ahead to the village, the boys reluctantly accept instructions from Gasemu on how to properly carry bananas on their shoulders, although they would much prefer to run straight to the village that is just across a river and over a hill.

On the way to Beah's hoped-for reunion with his mother, Gasemu urges them to stop and rest. Gunshots are heard. Children wail. Women scream. They hide in the bushes as the village burns. That brief rest stop has saved their lives. When silence finally comes, they examine the desolation.

"My entire body went into shock," he writes. "... I fell to the ground, holding my face. On the ground I felt as if my eyes were growing too big for the sockets. I could feel them expanding and the pain released my body from the shock.

"I ran to the house. Without any fear I went inside and looked around the smoke-filled rooms. The floors were filled with heaps of ashes; no solid form of a body was inside. I screamed at the top of my lungs and began to cry as loudly as I could, punching and kicking with all my might into the weak walls that continued to burn.

"I had lost my sense of touch. My hands and feet punched and kicked the burning walls, but I couldn't feel a thing. Gasemu and the rest of the other boys began pulling me away from the house. I kept kicking and punching as they dragged me out."

During their escape from a group of ten more rebels, Gasemu is shot and mortally wounded. They carry his bleeding body with them until he dies in the forest. The respect and compassion that Beah feels for Gasemu, a man who almost guided him out of the fear and madness, is acutely felt.

On the next page the rag-tag contingent of lost boys is gathered at gunpoint by army soldiers and they are forced to

join a camp of government forces where the main entertainment is watching *Rambo* movies. At first Beah don't need to fight, but his reprieve from butchery is short-lived.

"Sometimes we were asked to leave for war in the middle of a movie," he writes. "We would come back hours later after killing many people and continue the movie as if we had just returned from intermission. We were always either at the front lines, watching a war movie, or doing drugs."

Beah avoids all descriptions of his own acts in the killing fields except for a bi-



LAURA SANCHUK / TRIPLE AAA PHOTO

zarre ceremonial game in which their commander asks five boys to execute five helpless prisoners. This is a contest to see who can get the job done fastest with a sharp knife. Our narrator wins the throat cutting competition.

The story then skips over the next two years until Beah and other boy soldiers are removed from the government killing

squads by a UNICEF initiative.

They drive for four hours, held at gunpoint by well-meaning guards—who Beah despises and wants to kill—until they reach the capital. A long process of rehabilitation begins. And that's the second half of the book.



Ishmael Beah moved to the U.S. when he was seventeen, graduated from Oberlin College in 2004 and now serves as a member of the Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Division Advisory Committee. He came to Vancouver earlier this year to talk about his experiences.

Evidently the human capacity for cruelty is boundless. The United Nations has estimated there are some 300,000 child soldiers currently roaming the planet in more than fifty violent conflicts, but nobody can verify the extent of the atrocities, and nobody knows for certain how much innocence has been lost.

With that one noteworthy exception, Beah has avoided describing his own capacity to kill so *A Long Way Gone* is a disturbing but somewhat puzzling work, presumably released to publicize a global problem rather than expiate the demons that must still reside in Beah's mind. This is a very important book. But it doesn't tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. 1-55365-299-1

Hooray for Hollywood

Ishmael Beah's memoir is a beacon of revelation from a heart once filled with darkness. It has topped the BC Bestseller List and validated the thriller *Blood Diamond*, starring Leonardo di Caprio.

Anyone seeing that movie without reading Beah's book can be excused for presuming the "boy soldier" segments of *Blood Diamond* are over-blown. They are all too real.

See the film. Buy the book. Ask yourself why people buy diamonds.

Prince George fantasies

Lynda Williams likes to claim heredity explains her imagination and flair for drama.

Williams' father read her epic poetry before she could read and her mother's grandfather was a Welsh bard who wrote a book of sermons.

Her maternal great-great-grandfather was supposedly made a cuckold of a King of England (while he was attending a royal birth in his capacity as a physician).

By day, as a Prince George librarian, Williams is an "educational technologist."

By night she explores gender roles and rules in a futuristic fantasy fiction world that is dependent on bio-engineering.

In her novel *The Courtesan Prince* (2005), the first instalment of her planned ten-novel Okal Rel Universe series, Williams invented two ideologically opposed planetary societies, both colonizing space by cloning.

Connections to planet earth have long been severed and 200 years have passed since the Killing Reach War. High-tech and egalitarian Reetions remain averse to the neo-feudal and barbaric Gelacks.

In her follow-up, *Righteous Anger* (Calgary: Edge \$22.95), Williams continues to explore the two warring cultures.

The Reetions are socially transparent and regulated by the computer, the Gelacks are genetically enhanced, highly religious and regulated by the Okal Rel Sword law.

In particular, *Righteous Anger* focuses on the fortunes, awkward fate and fighting skills of Horth Nersal, a half-breed who was conceived as the result of a treaty marriage to bring peace between two disparate factions.

1-894063-38-4

In **Andrea MacPherson's** second novel, *Beyond the Blue* (Random House \$29.95), four women in the Scottish mill town of Dundee struggle to survive in 1918.

Set during a period when many men are absent due to World War One, the story chiefly concerns Morag, who works in the jute mill, her two daughters, Caro and Wallis, as well as Morag's orphaned niece Imogen.

While Wallis works with her mother at the mill and painstakingly saves her money in order to escape from Dundee, her beautiful sister Caro hopes to free

Separating contestants according to gender works for *American Idol*, so, what the heck, we're doing it here.

This process reveals women have recently published nearly twice as many new works of B.C. fiction than men, including

Amanda Hale's *The Reddening Path* and **Linda Rogers' The Empress Letters** [see pages 22 & 29].



herself via a calculated love affair.

Beyond the Blue incorporates the suffragette movement, an influenza epidemic and historical events

such as the Tay Bridge disaster and the Easter Uprising. MacPherson's grandmother grew up in Dundee across the street from the Bowbridge Works jute mill, where MacPherson's great-grandmother worked.

0-679-31422-9



Andrea MacPherson

The long list of B.C. authors who have worked in bookstores includes mystery writer Laurence Gough, who worked at Duthies, as did Mark Vonnegut, son of Kurt. On the other side of the Strait, Robert Wiersema

works at Bolen's, and Sheila Munro worked at Munro's Books, as did **Valerie Stetson** who received the Bronwen Wallace Award for the first story she ever completed, "*The Year I Got Impatient*" in 2001.

Stetson's debut story has become the title piece for her first fiction collection, *The Year I Got Impatient* (Oolichan \$18.95). Stetson lived in Victoria for thirteen years prior to moving to Kelowna in 1999. Having written humour and television columns for the *Times Colonist*, she's now turning her story entitled "Graham Getty's Last Swim" into a novel.

0-88982-238-7

Touched by the kindness of a Cowichan Valley settler named Dora Hume in the 1860s, lonesome trapper Boston Jim decides to search for her capricious husband in the gold rush town of

Barkerville in *The Reckoning of Boston Jim* (Brindle & Glass \$24.95), a first novel by **Claire Mulligan** who graduated from UBC and moved to Pennsylvania. 1-897142-21-8;



Dana Copithorne has provided the cover art and illustrations for *The Steam Magnate* (Charleston, South Carolina: Aio Publishing \$22), her fantasy novel "of the Broken Glass City." The protagonist Eson, who has "inherited the steam-power legacy of his family lineage," recovers from a disastrous relationship with a woman of his own kind, only to become embroiled in an intriguing romance with a young woman who is not who she claims to be.

Copithorne has studied Shamanic religions in Siberia, Japanese



Claire Mulligan

culture, Zen aesthetics, Czech literature, and Japanese and Buddhist architectural traditions.

1933083085

Fiction Factoid: After her first novel, *The Sad Truth About Happiness* (HarperCollins), was shortlisted for the Books in Canada First Novel Award, lawyer **Anne Giardini** has been promoted to vice-president and general counsel for Canada for Weyerhaeuser Company.

continued on page 32



Valerie Stetson

National Bestseller

"A tour de force."

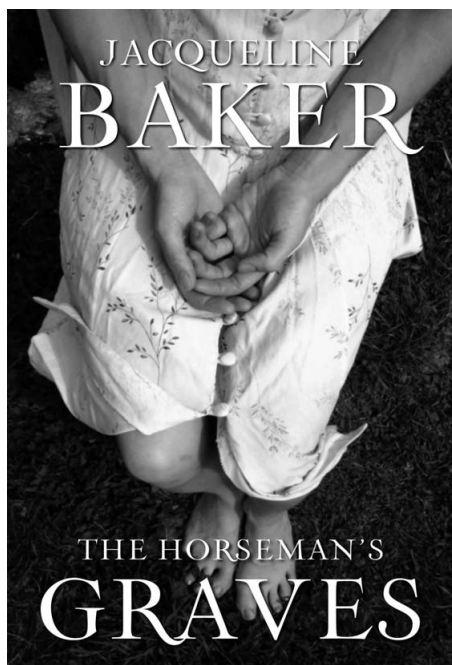
BILL GASTON

"[A] poetic rendition of the prairie landscape that will resonate with readers."

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

"A powerful exploration of the deep undercurrents in a rural community."

EDMONTON JOURNAL



A Phyllis Bruce Book

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

harpercollins.ca | authortracker.ca

continued from page 31

Shaena Lambert's first novel **Radiance** (Random House \$32.95) concerns the relationship between an 18-year-old survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb blast, Keiko Kitigawa, who is brought to the United States in 1952 for charitable reconstructive surgery, and her suburban hostess, Daisy Lawrence, who has been assigned the task to pry the girl's traumatic story from her to serve the propaganda needs of the committee that has sponsored her visit.

With McCarthyism on the rise and experiments to develop the hydrogen bomb underway in the United States, the complex intimacy that arises between the "Hiroshima maiden" and her host mother has its own frisson born of whispered confessions and wrenching betrayals.

978-0-769-31150-8

Having attended UBC's Booming Ground Summer Writing Program, food writer and poet **Jen**

Sookfong Lee has published her debut novel, **The End of East** (Knopf \$29.95), another family saga about three generations of Chinese Canadians within Vancouver's Chinatown.

In this *New Face of Fiction* title, Sammy Chan returns to Vancouver to care for her aging mother due to her sister's upcoming marriage. While managing a dangerous love affair and coping with her difficult mother, she begins to record family stories dating back to the Canadian arrival of her grandfather, Seid Quan, at age 18 in 1913.

History repeats itself as personal ambitions are sacrificed in favour of family goals. Jennifer Lee was born and raised on Vancouver's East side, where she lives with her husband.

978-0-676-97838-4

As a manager of a large corporation becomes more oppressed by the bureaucratic nature of her work, Frances, the protagonist in **Arleen Paré's** first novel **Paper Trail** (NeWest \$18.95), regularly has conversations with the ghost of **Franz Kafka**, from whom she learns that she appears as a character in a manuscript he is writing. She also inexplicably hears Leider music and starts to lose small body parts.

Born and raised in Montreal, Paré received sociology, history and social work degrees from McGill University, then moved to Vancouver where she worked in bureaucratic office situations for two decades.

Having received a Master's degree in Adult Education from UBC, Paré has since pursued her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from University of Victoria.

0-920897-87-8

All's not well that ends Raphael

Having received her M.A. from UBC in 1998, **Gina Buonaguro** has co-written **The Sidewalk Artist** (St. Martin's Press \$27.95), about a New York writer named Tulia Rose who overcomes writer's block after she accidentally meets a sidewalk artist on a Paris street who draws angels like those drawn by Raphael.

Tulia falls in love with the artist and she begins to write a novel about Raphael. They travel to Italy where her abilities to distinguish between past and present, reality and fiction, start to falter, until she begins to believe her meeting with the sidewalk artist was not accidental.

0312358032

Jen Sookfong Lee

Smoke From the Branding Fire by H.G. Pallister

This book tells the stories of Alberta's brands and of the folks who made them, registered them, and used them. The anecdotes cover our most famous brands and the cowboys who used them.

ISBN: 978-1-55059-336-5, \$25.95, pb

Wolves In Russia
by Will N. Graves

Wolves in Russia compiles over 50 years of research on the history of Russian wolves to challenge North American notions about the nature of these controversial animals.

ISBN: 978-1-55059-332-7, \$26.95, pb

Available at your local bookstore or contact:

Temeron Books Inc. tel: 403.283.0900 fax: 403.283.6947

temeron@telusplanet.net www.temerondetselig.com

Haig-Brown Regional Prize Finalist • Honourable Mention,
BC Historical Federation Writing Competition

Clam Gardens TRANSMONTANUS 15

**Aboriginal Mariculture on
Canada's West Coast**

by Judith Williams

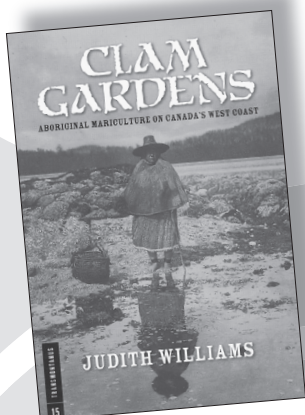
Find it here

People's Co-op Bookstore
Magpie Magazine Gallery
Duthie Books
Blackberry Books

Salt Spring Books
Crown Publications
Abraxas Books
Marnie's Books



PUBLISHED BY NEW STAR BOOKS



All aboard the Commodore

Although the first collection of stories by Burnaby-based folk/blues artist **Fred Booker** recalls growing up black in Canada, *Adventures in Debt Collection* (Commodore \$16) mainly recounts Booker's day-job escapades as a repo man confronting debtors and repossessing vehicles with tow-truck hook-ups.

Booker's short fiction has appeared in various literary magazines and *Bluesprint: Black British Columbian Literature and Orature*, a landmark anthology edited by **Wayde Compton**, one of the founders of Commodore Books.

Touted as the first and only black literary press in Western Canada, Commodore Press derives its name from the paddle steamer *Commodore* which transported thirty-five black migrants from San Francisco to Victoria 147 years ago.

That same steamer is also the source for the title story of **F.B.**

André's second fiction collection, *What Belongs* (Ronsdale \$21.95), concerning cross-racial and cross-cultural relationships.

André, a former cafe owner in Victoria, depicts a contemporary researcher interviewing a descendant of one of the boatload of African-Americans brought to Fort Victoria in 1858 by half-black Governor **James Douglas**.



F.B. André

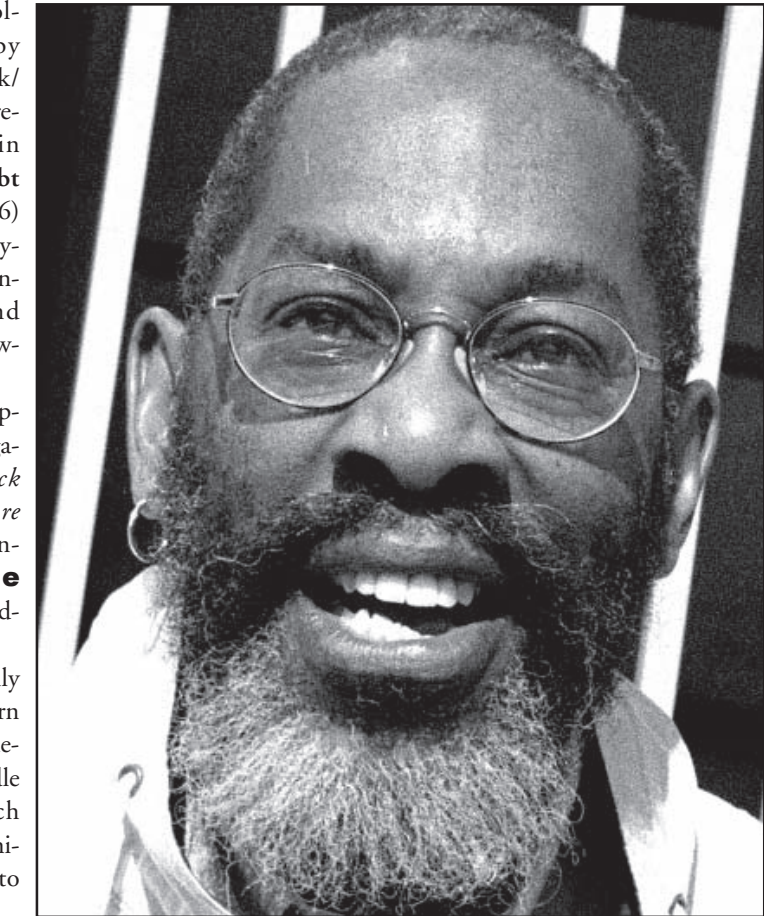
Douglas wanted an influx of pro-British immigrants to counter-act the encroachments of too many white, pro-American miners during the Cariboo gold rush.

Born in San Fernando, Trinidad, in 1955, F.B. André immigrated to Canada in 1971.

Adventures 0-9683182-1-6; *Belongs* 1-55380-044-3

New Star Books editor **Carellin Brooks** encouraged **Brett Josef Grubisic**

to write his debut novel, *The Age*



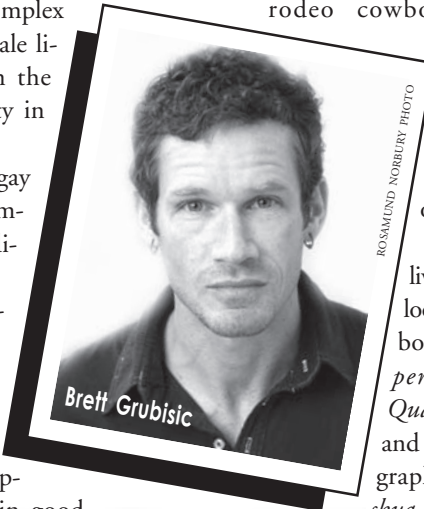
Repo man Fred Booker isn't singing the blues in *Adventures in Debt Collection*

of *Cities* (Arsenal \$19.95), a complex coming-of-age story about a male librarian from a small town in the 1950s who goes to the big city in 1959.

His accidental discovery of a gay subculture is framed by a contemporary analysis by a modern editor named A.X. Palios.

This experimental novel involves the discovery of a manuscript inside a hollowed-out home economics textbook. "I was skeptical about historical fiction and its usual posture of representing historical actuality in good faith," Grubisic commented. Hence he has "destabilized" that aspect of the narration.

An English professor at UBC, Grubisic has also edited



Brett Grubisic

Contra/Diction: New Queer Male Fiction and co-edited *Carnal Nation: Brave New Sex Fictions* with Carellin Brooks.

1-55152-212-8

Bill Gaston's Rabalaisian collection of stories, *Gargoyles* (Anansi \$29.95), employs gargoyles as signposts to represent various extremes of human emotions. "The stories all share something I would call 'gargoylishness,'" he says. "My protagonists tend to be larger-than-life, gentle grotesques." In each story, Gaston has described people trying to transcend their own psychological ugliness, fears or weaknesses.

0-88784-749-8

An Ojibway from the Wabasseemoong First Nation in Northwestern Ontario, **Richard Wagamese's** third novel *Dream Wheels* (Doubleday \$34.95) is about the healing relationships between a former world champion Ojibway-Sioux

crippled by a bull, a black single mother and her 14-year-old son Aiden.

Wagamese lives near Kamloops. His other books are *Keeper'n Me*, *A Quality of Light* and the autobiographical *For Joshua*. He has also won a National Newspaper Award for Column Writing.

0-385-66199-1

Born in British Columbia to French-Canadian and American parents, **D.Y. Béchard** of Montreal has published *Vandal Love* (Doubleday \$29.95) about a French-Canadian family that is divided by a genetic curse that makes the Hervé children either runts or giants.

0-385-66051-0

Born and raised in Regina, **Devin Krukoff** of Victoria won the 2005 McClelland &

Stewart Journey Prize for his story "*The Last Spark*." His debut novel *Compensation* (Thistledown \$18.95) is a deathbed memoir by a dedicated malingeringer, Richard Parks, who has spent a lifetime assiduously avoiding work. Leonard da Vinci once

said, "Work is the law" but clearly Leonardo didn't know what he was talking about.

As a grimly humorous raconteur, Krukoff's hero recounts how honesty is not the best policy and avoidance is next to godliness.

1-897235-19-4

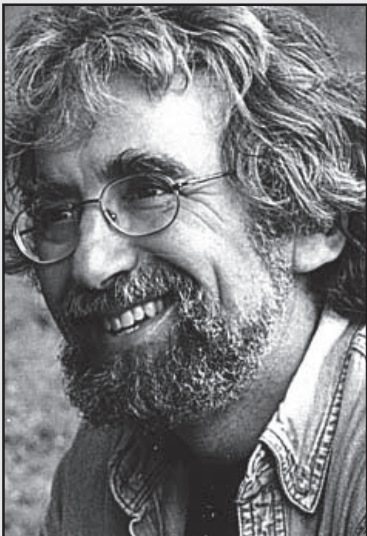
After the apathy of a St. Petersburg secret policeman is dispelled by the murder of a child prostitute in 1913, he uncovers a plot to overthrow the tsar and install a puppet ruler in *Field of Mars* (Penguin \$10.99), the third novel by Vancouver actor **Stephen Miller**, who recently portrayed Inspector Zack McNab in the TV series *DaVinci's City Hall*.

0-14-301772-1

For CBC Radio's *Ideas*, **Paul A. Green** generated "*Witches, Warlocks and Magi*," "*The Future of Divination*" and "*Space Gods and Secret Chiefs*." A graduate of UBC Creative Writing, he published poetry and prose in various anthologies and magazines prior to the release of his si-fi novel *The Qliphoth* (Surrey: Libros Libertad \$24.95). For more info, see abcbookworld.com

978-0-9781865-0-0 [See abcbookworld.com]

ALSO RECEIVED



Boundary Country by Tom Wayman (Thistledown Press \$18.95)
1-897235-25-9

Murder, Eh? By Lou Allin (Rendezvous \$14.95) 1-894917-27-8

Delible by Anne Stone (Insomniac Press \$21.95) 1-897178-36-0

Josh & The Magic Vial by Craig Spence (Thistledown \$17.95) 978-1-897235-10-2

Adam's Peak by Heather Burt (Dundurn \$21.99) 1-55002-646-1

The Raid by Ken Merkley (Trafford \$28.95) 141209309-0

The Pale Surface of Things by Janey Bennet (Hopeace \$25) 978-0-9734007-2-4

Shadows on a Cave Wall by Ernest Hekkanen (New Orphic \$20) 978-1-894842-11-2

The Coward Files by Ryan Arnold (Conundrum \$15.00) 1-894994-20-5

Border Town by Hillel Wright (Printed Matter \$15.00) 1-933606-08-8

Dark Resurrection by Ron Chudley (TouchWood \$12.95) 1-894898-48-6

Paper Trail by Arleen Paré (NeWest \$19.95) 1-897126-13-1

Conceit by Mary Novik (Doubleday \$29.95) 0-385-66205-X

Brendan McLeod has won the 29th annual International 3-Day Novel Contest with a humorous coming-of-age story, *The Convictions of Leonard McKinley* (3-Day Books \$14.95), about high school and family pressures in a prairie town.

McLeod, a musician and spoken word artist, was one of 535 writers who participated in the 72-hour writing competition on the 2006 Labour Day weekend. Some 389 entrants managed to complete and submit a short novel for the competition. It was the first time in eight years that the winner and the runner-up were from Vancouver, birthplace and home of the contest.

Having earned his MA in philosophy at the University of Waterloo, Brendan McLeod has toured with The Fugitives, a spoken word and music collective. 1-55152-222-5

WHO'S WHO BC

A is for Antliff

As a follow-up to *Only A Beginning, An Anarchist Anthology*, **Alan Antliff's** new collection of essays, *Anarchy and Art: From the Paris Commune to the Fall of the Berlin Wall* (Arsenal \$24.95) is about how art has been used to promulgate and augment political change and awareness during the past 140 years. Antliff is currently the Canada Research Chair in Modern Art at the University of Victoria.

1-55152-207-1

B is for Burnett

Before she died, **Dorothy Burnett**, the first independent craft binder to set up shop in Vancouver, passed along examples of her book bindings to **Anne Yandle** at UBC Special Collections. And just before Yandle died late last year, the Alcuin Society was able to show her an advance version of their 80-page book, *Dorothy Burnett Bookbinder*, designed and printed by **Robert R. Reid**, with text by **Norman Amor**. If you are interested in the history of limited edition publishing in B.C. contact **Jim Rainer** at jrainer@shaw.ca for details on this book made in fond memory of Anne Yandle.

C is for Coyote

For the second consecutive year, **Ivan E. Coyote** has been short-listed for the Ferro-Grumley Award in the category of Women's Fiction, this time for her acclaimed novel *Bow Grip* (Arsenal 2006). The award is part of the Triangle Awards presented by the Publishing Triangle. Coyote was featured on the cover of *BC BookWorld's* Winter issue.

D is for Diacu

Isaac Newton once theorized that Greek chronology was about 300 years out of whack. In *The Lost Millennium: History's Timetables Under Siege* (Knopf \$35), **Florin Diacu** incorporates the research of Russian mathematician and chronological revisionist **Anatoli Fomenko** who believes our dating sys-

tem is approximately one millennium askew.

"Up to 500-600 years in the past," says Diacu, "the dates we have are fine. There is enough evidence to trust that they are correct. Everything beyond that becomes more uncertain the more we distance ourselves from the present."



Florin Diacu

Far East chronologies cannot clarify the issue partly because a Chinese emperor in the 2nd century BC destroyed most Chinese documents that provided any links with the past. The reliability of radiocarbon dating is also discussed.

A former Director of the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences at the University of Victoria, Diacu is also the author of *Celestial Encounters*, a history of ideas in the field of chaos theory.

0-676-97657-3

E is for Eve

It's common knowledge that Canuck Place in Shaughnessy was previously a mansion that served as the headquarters for a Vancouver chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, but there are many other addresses in the Lower Mainland with skeletons in their closets. Australian-born journalist and freelance writer **Eve Lazarus** of North Vancouver has examined the social histories of heritage houses in Greater Vancouver for *At Home with History: The Untold Secrets of Heritage Homes* (Anvil \$20).

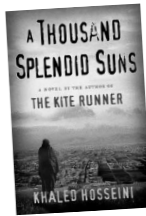
1-895636-80-2

continued on next page



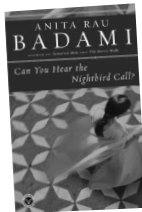
Eve Lazarus

exciting summer releases



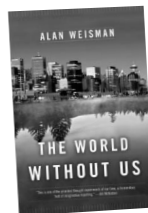
May 22

A Thousand Splendid Suns
Khaled Hosseini



June 12

Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?
(In paperback)
Anita Rau Badami



July 6

The World Without Us
Alan Wiseman

kitsilano

3066 W. Broadway

broadway

632 W. Broadway

west tenth

4444 W. 10th

lonsdale

1524 Lonsdale

yaletown

1068 Homer

seymour

552 Seymour

davie

1051 Davie

we've moved!

Book WAREHOUSE

www.bookwarehouse.ca

every book • bargain priced • every day

Wine-ing about the game

continued from previous page

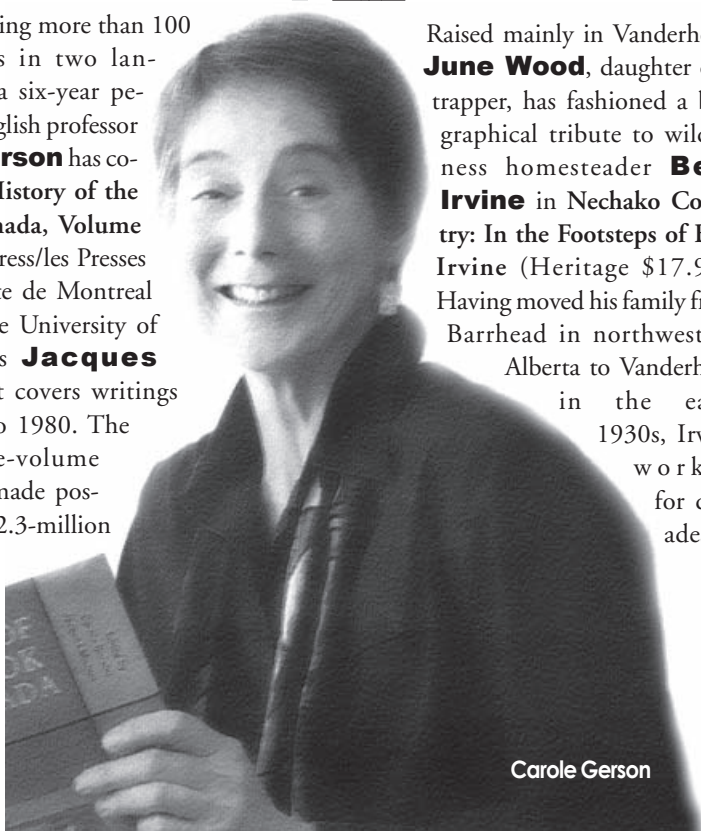
F is for Falls

In a similar vein, from a different era, **John Harris'** creative non-fiction work **Above the Falls** (Touchwood \$18.95) recalls the life and times of "The Flying Trapper," George Dalziel, and the unsolved RCMP case arising from the disappearance of two trappers employed by Dalziel near a remote Nahanni River trapline in 1936. When authorities found the trappers' cabin burned to the ground, they suspected Dalziel of foul play. 978-1-894898-55-3

G is for Gerson

Coordinating more than 100 contributors in two languages over a six-year period, SFU English professor **Carole Gerson** has co-edited **The History of the Book in Canada, Volume III** (U of T Press/les Presses de l'Universite de Montreal \$85) with the University of Sherbrooke's **Jacques Michon**. It covers writings from 1918 to 1980. The overall three-volume project was made possible with a \$2.3-million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

0802090478



Carole Gerson

H is for Hodgson

Hip-to-sip wine buffs **James Nevison** and **Kenji Hodgson** (above right), known collectively as 'Halfaglass,' first endured tasting copious amounts of wine to create *Have a Glass* (Whitecap \$19.95), a guide for the young-at-palate. Steering clear of complicated terminology, the duo explored wine history and helped young connoisseurs choose the perfect vintage, sample the latest trend and order with confidence in a restaurant. Success with that book has led to a follow-up, **Had a Glass: Top 100 Wines for 2007 Under \$20** (Whitecap \$19.95).

1552858073

I is for Irvine

Raised mainly in Vanderhoof, **June Wood**, daughter of a trapper, has fashioned a biographical tribute to wilderness homesteader **Bert Irvine** in *Nechako Country: In the Footsteps of Bert Irvine* (Heritage \$17.95). Having moved his family from Barrhead in northwestern Alberta to Vanderhoof in the early 1930s, Irvine worked for decades as

a guide and an outfitter. **Cathy Hobson**, daughter of author **Rich Hobson** [*Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy*] contributed the foreword.

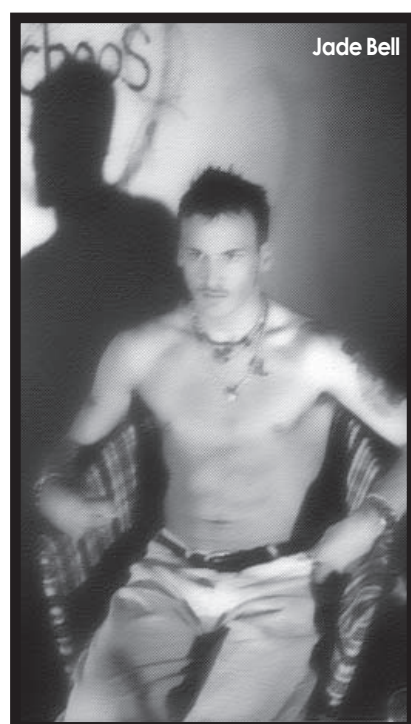
978-1-894974-27-1

J is for Jade

At 23, in 1997, handsome and athletic **Jade Bell** was rushed to the hospital after drunkenly mixing a concoction of cocaine and heroin and shooting it into his arm. Blinded and unable to speak, afflicted by an acute muscle disorder throughout his body, Bell had to gradually regain control of his body and accept the help of caregivers. Wheelchair-bound, he has since toured schools to give educational talks about the dangers of drug abuse.

Dedicated to his father who died after a prolonged bout of cancer, Jade Bell's poetry collection **Strength of the Human Spirit** (Granville Island \$16.95) contains supportive notes and letters from his father encouraging his son to spiritually rise above the tragedy of his own self-induced handicaps.

1-894694-47-3



Jade Bell

K is for Kanada

Born in Germany in 1953, **Wolfgang Winteroff** first came to Canada in 1983, visited the Bowron Lakes in 1986 and canoed the entire chain of Bowron Lakes with two friends in 1992. He first completed the 75-km-long West Coast Trail hike in 1994. He has since organized tours from Germany for Europeans interested in exploring the wilderness of B.C. and the Yukon.

Winteroff's German books *Kanada: Bowron Lakes* and *Kanada: West Coast Trail* have been translated and re-released as pocket-sized guidebooks, **Bowron Lakes** (Positive Connections \$18.95) and **West Coast Trail** (Positive Connections \$14.95).

See abcbookworld.com for more info.

Bowron 0-9734091-1-8; Trail 0-9734091-2-6

continued on page 40

New from the legendary Modernette and author of *Guilty of Everything*

WAGES

A chronicle of the working life

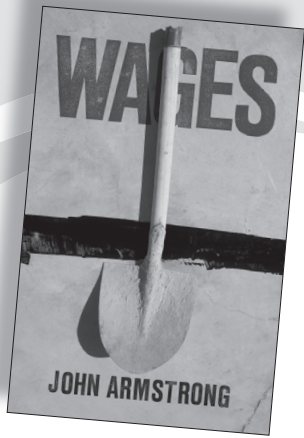
by John Armstrong

Find it here

Duthie Books, West 4th Av.
People's Co-op Bookstore
Maggie Book & Mag Gallery
Blackberry Books, Granville I.
32 Books, North Vancouver

Miners Bay Books, Mayne I.
Abraxas Books
Spartacus Books, W. Hastings
Pulpfiction, Main St.
Chapters • Indigo

 PUBLISHED BY NEW STAR BOOKS



continued from page 38

L is for Leggo

Having grown up in Newfoundland, UBC Language and Literacy professor **Carl Leggo** has repeatedly returned to The Rock in his imagination since he moved to British Columbia about seven years ago. His third collection of reminiscences and Newfie lyrical longing is *Come-By-Chance* (Breakwater Books \$14.95), a volume of poetry. 1-55081-082-0

M is for Munro

K. Douglas Munro, Victoria-based editor of *Fur Trade Letters of Willie Traill 1864-1893* (University of Alberta Press \$34.95), is the great-grandson of **William Edward Traill**, the son of **Catharine Parr Traill**, author of *The Backwoods of Canada* (1836) and nephew of **Susanna Moodie**, author of *Roughing it in the Bush* (1853).

As an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, Willie Traill worked as a fur trader in the Canadian West for thirty years, marrying **Harriet McKay**, eldest daughter of Chief Factor **William McKay**, and fathering twelve children. He ended his career as Chief Trader at Fort St. James in charge of the New Caledonia district.

Traill's letters home between 1864 and 1893 were gathered and organized by his grandson, **T.R. (Pat) McCloy**, who encouraged Munro to prepare them for publication. 0-88864-460-4

N is for Nanaimo

Formerly a reporter for the *Alberni Valley Times* and a winner of a Jack Wasserman Award for investigative journalism on social and environmental affairs, **Jan Peterson** has written six



books about Vancouver Island, including her latest release, *Harbour City: Nanaimo in Transition, 1886-1920* (Heritage \$19.95). It completes her trilogy that began with *Black Diamond City: Nanaimo-The Victorian Era* and *Hub City: Nanaimo*.

Peterson received Certificates of Honour from the B.C. Historical Federation in 1997 and 1999. 1-894974-20-4

O is for Onley

The good denizens of Wells, B.C., near Barkerville have honoured **Tony Onley's** penchant for drawing inspiration from remote areas and his savvy for the business side of being an artist by renaming their Wells Artists' Project after the artist who died in a crash of his own plane in 2004.

The renaming is the first step in a long-term vision to develop an eight-month artist development program in

Wells called the Toni Onley School.

Artists will be invited to the school to "live and work in the remote hamlet of historic Wells" to create a body of work for exhibition.

Onley wrote an autobiography, co-authored a book based on his travels in India with **George Woodcock**, and published a coffee table book.

P is for Poet Laureate

When **George McWhirter** retired from the University of British Columbia's Creative Writing department in 2004, he was feted by former students and colleagues at a large reception that included the launching of a limited edition book of appreciative essays in his honour dubbed The BOG (*The Book of George*). Three years later he has been named the City of Vancouver's inaugural poet laureate. Victoria already has a poet laureate, **Carla Funk**.

Q is for Questionable

Josh Wapp's earnest comic strip book account of his struggles to overcome the conventional medical system when coping with schizophrenia, **Jumping the Fence: A True Story of Breaking Free From the Psychiatric Industry** (Self-published, unpriced, 2006) questions the validity of psychotropic medications. "It's important to remember that there's nothing 'wrong' with people like me," he writes. "In fact, statistics show that schizophrenics comprise 1% of the population in Canada. Sometimes I think I should wear a t-shirt that says 'Paranoid Schizophrenic' in public places. Some people might realize that I'm a regular person." Wapp studied visual arts at the Emily Carr Institute and lives in Nelson, B.C. [joshwapp@hotmail.com]

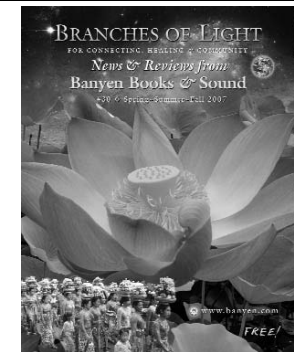
R is for Rimmer

Variously described as "the master of all things letterpress" and "one of Canada's most remarkable typographic figures," **Jim Rimmer** started working as an apprentice typesetter at his grandfather's Vancouver print shop, J W Boyd Printers & Publishers, in the 1950s, earning \$15 per week, becoming type director at the Lanston Monotype Corporation in the 1970s.

As a creator of 190 digital and seven metal typefaces, he is revered by the West Coast letterpress community. Organized by **Eric Swanick** of SFU's Special Collections, "Rimmerfest" was held at Simon Fraser University's downtown campus in November to mark Rimmer's achievements as a typographer, illustrator, designer, printer, publisher and mentor.

The gathering also marked the publication of Rimmer's third title from his New Westminster-based Pie Tree Press & Type Foundry imprint, *Leaves from the Pie Tree*. Rimmer's press is named after "an ancient snagly old tree in our backyard, from which a couple of lovely

continued on next page



Pick up our Spring-into-Summer 2007 Branches of Light, issue #30!



Offering the Perrenial Beauty of the World's SPIRITUAL & HEALING TRADITIONS since 1970

BANYEN BOOKS

3608 West 4th Avenue
at Dunbar, one block east of Alma in Kitsilano, Vancouver

Books 604-732-7912 Music/Gifts/Tkts 604-737-8858

Out-of-town orders 1-800-663-8442

Open Mon-Fri 10-9, Sat 10-8, Sun 11-7

www.banyen.com for reviews, author events & our entire inventory



We are Celebrating our 10th Anniversary

Open year-round with over 25,000 titles plus a great selection of Canadian authors, art supplies and gifts.
Join us for readings and book launches.

76 Madrona Drive Galiano Island BC V0N 1P0
250 539-3340 ltrent@uniserve.com

The definitive guide to the Kluane and Tatshenshini, revised and updated

The Kluane National Park Hiking Guide, 3rd ed.

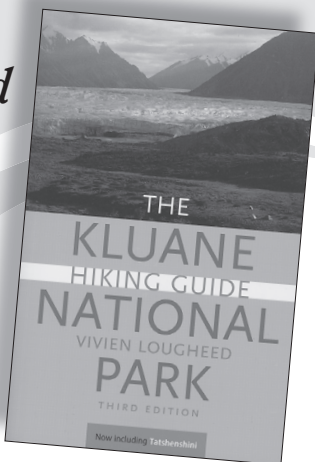
by Vivien Lougheed

Find it here

Duthie Books, West 4th Av.
People's Co-op Bookstore
32 Books, North Vancouver
Max's Fireweed Books
Chapters • Indigo

Crown Publications, Victoria
Wanderlust, West 4th Av.
Books & Co., Prince George
Bolen Books, Victoria
Tanners Books, Sidney

 PUBLISHED BY NEW STAR BOOKS



continued from previous page

old sister ladies who used to live next door to us would bake apple pies. They always referred to it as the Pie Tree.”

Rimmer's private papers and his Pie Tree Press collection have been donated to SFU Special Collections.

S is for Sanguin

With a passion for reconciling science and religion, United Church minister **Bruce Sanguin** suggests knowledge of an evolving or evolutionary universe requires a new cosmology that “simply cannot be contained by old models and images of God, or by old ways of being the church.”

Sanguin urges readers to rediscover awe by examining the 14-billion-year history of the cosmos in **Darwin, Divinity, and the Dance of the Cosmos** (Wood Lake \$24.95). His preceding book was *Summoning the Whirlwind:: Unconventional Sermons for a Relevant Christian Faith*. Sanguin is a minister at the Canadian Memorial Church and Centre for Peace in Vancouver.

1-551455-457

T is for Turner

The intense competition between the CPR, Great Northern and Kettle River Valley Railways in BC's southern mountains during the copper mining boom



Robert Turner

of the late 1890s and early 1900s is the focus for **Steam Along the Boundary** (Sono Nis \$49.95) by **Robert Turner** and the late **David Wilkie**. It's Turner's 15th book. Mines and smelters at Grand Forks, Greenwood, Phoenix, Castlegar, Keremeos, Hedley and Republic were connected by a network of railways that extended into Washington State to Spokane.

1-55039-158-5

U is for UNESCO

Much-honoured for conceiving the Vancouver Writers Festival with **Lorenz von Fersen** back in 1987, **Alma Lee**, who left her job as festival head honcho in 2005, is now spearheading her own initiative to have Vancouver accorded a UNESCO World City of Literature designation. Other cities in the running include Alexandria, Krakow and Amsterdam. Lee has been informed that Vancouver has a favourable position as a progressive “New World City.” The only other city to have gained this distinction from UNESCO is Edinburgh.

Lee was also one of many BC literati who participated in the Writers Union of Canada Annual General Meeting at UBC, May 31-June 3.

V is for Van der Flier-Keller

Passionate about rocks and beaches and the stories to be told about them, earth sciences professor and geologist

Eileen Van der Flier-Keller has used 80 photos to identify 28 different types of rocks and minerals for **A Field Guide to the Identification of Pebbles** (Harbour \$7.95). Her laminated, accordion-folded guide for young rock hounds was preceded by her *South Vancouver Island Earth Science Fun Guide*.

978-1-55017-395-6



Dollie & Annie Watts

W is for Watts

Dollie Watts, Liliget Feast House manager isn't smiling because she won an *Iron Chef* episode on the Food Network—which she did, in 2004. She and her daughter **Annie Watts** of the Git'ksan First Nations are happy because they have just produced one of the first cookbooks of West Coast First Nations cuisine, **Where People Feast: An Indigenous People's Cookbook** (Arsenal \$24.95).

1-55152-221-7

X is for Xiaoping

As an independent researcher in the Department of Sociology and Women's Studies at Okanagan College, **Xiaoping Li** has examined Asian Canadian political and cultural activism in the late 20th century in her interdisciplinary inquiry, **Voices Rising: Asian Canadian Cultural Activism** (UBC Press \$29.95).

9780774812221

Y is for Yeadon-Jones

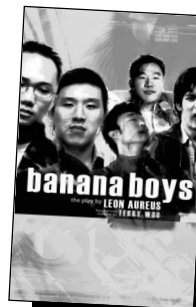
Having sailed together across the Atlantic Ocean from Southampton, England in 1985, **Anne** and **Laurence Yeadon-Jones** have produced a summer cruising chronicle in the mode of *Curve of Time* called *Voyage of the Dreamspeaker* as well as five coastal cruising guides, most recently **The Broughtons; Vancouver Island, Kelsey Bay to Port Hardy** (Harbour \$44.95).

1-55017-406-1

Z is for Zentrepreneurism

Allan Holender is a self-described serial entrepreneur who had a lengthy career with the Big Brothers organization. He has self-published advice on how to meld ethical personal standards and Buddhism with the demands of business, **Zentrepreneurism: A Twenty-First Century Guide to the New World of Business** (Vancouver: Write Action \$34.95), crediting his life mentor, **Jon-Lee Kootnekoff**, former SFU basketball coach, and Zen mentor **Bruce Stewart**.

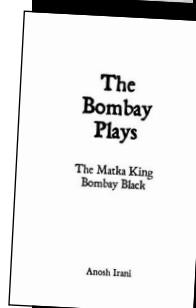
0-9780837-0-9



Banana Boys: The Play Leon Aureus

A smart, contemporary and wickedly funny play about five young Asian-Canadian men wrestling with issues of race, identity and the death of a friend. Adapted from the novel by Terry Woo, **Banana Boys** is a call to anyone who has felt out of place in the world.

“This banana definitely has appeal.” —*Toronto Star*
ISBN 978-0-88754-516-0 \$17.95



The Bombay Plays Anosh Irani

The Matka King: A powerful eunuch, Top Rani, operates an illicit lottery through his brothel, and when a gambler who is deeply in debt makes an unexpected wager, the stakes become life and death.

“Excellent characterization and humour.” —*Vancouver Sun*

Bombay Black: Charts the seduction of Apsara by Kamal, and Padma's violent enmity toward the blind man and his secrets. Winner of 4 Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

ISBN 978-0-88754-560-3 \$19.95

Playwrights Canada Press

www.playwrightscanada.com

YOUR POCKET GUIDES TO EXCITING OUTDOOR ADVENTURES!

The **OUTDOOR GUIDE** books provide you with all the information you need to have a safe and enjoyable trip: when to go, how to get there, what to take and what you can expect once there.

The guides also include maps, tips on the route, wildlife and much more!



\$18.95
ISBN 0-9734091-1-8
both 4.5" x 6.5"

\$14.95
ISBN 0-9734091-2-6

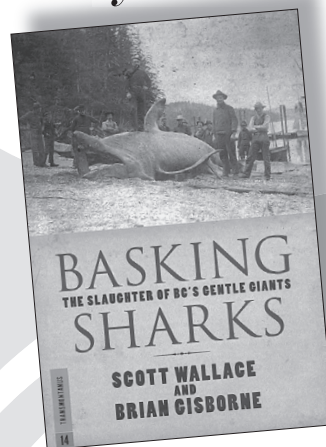
Available at your local bookstore or order through our website:
www.outdoorguidebooks.net

TRANSMONTANUS 14

Basking Sharks

by Scott Wallace & Brian Gisborne

Find it here



Duthie Books
People's Co-op Bookstore
Blackberry Books
Crown Publications, Victoria
Sorensen Books, Victoria
Book Bonanza, Quadra Island
Mermaid Tales, Tofino
Miners Bay Books, Mayne Island



PUBLISHED BY NEW STAR BOOKS

JOAN GIVNER



Ellen is back, this time with literary ambitions in...

Ellen Fremedon: JOURNALIST
by Joan Givner

(\$15.95 Groundwood)
ISBN 0-88899-668-3
A young adult novel.

www.groundwoodbooks.com

WHEN CANADIAN POET **Dorothy Livesay** returned from the Soviet Union in 1981 and proclaimed its virtues in a *Vancouver Sun* article, it was too much for **Jan Drabek**, a novelist who had fled Czechoslovakia in 1948, lived in Germany, France, and the United States, then settled in Vancouver in 1965.

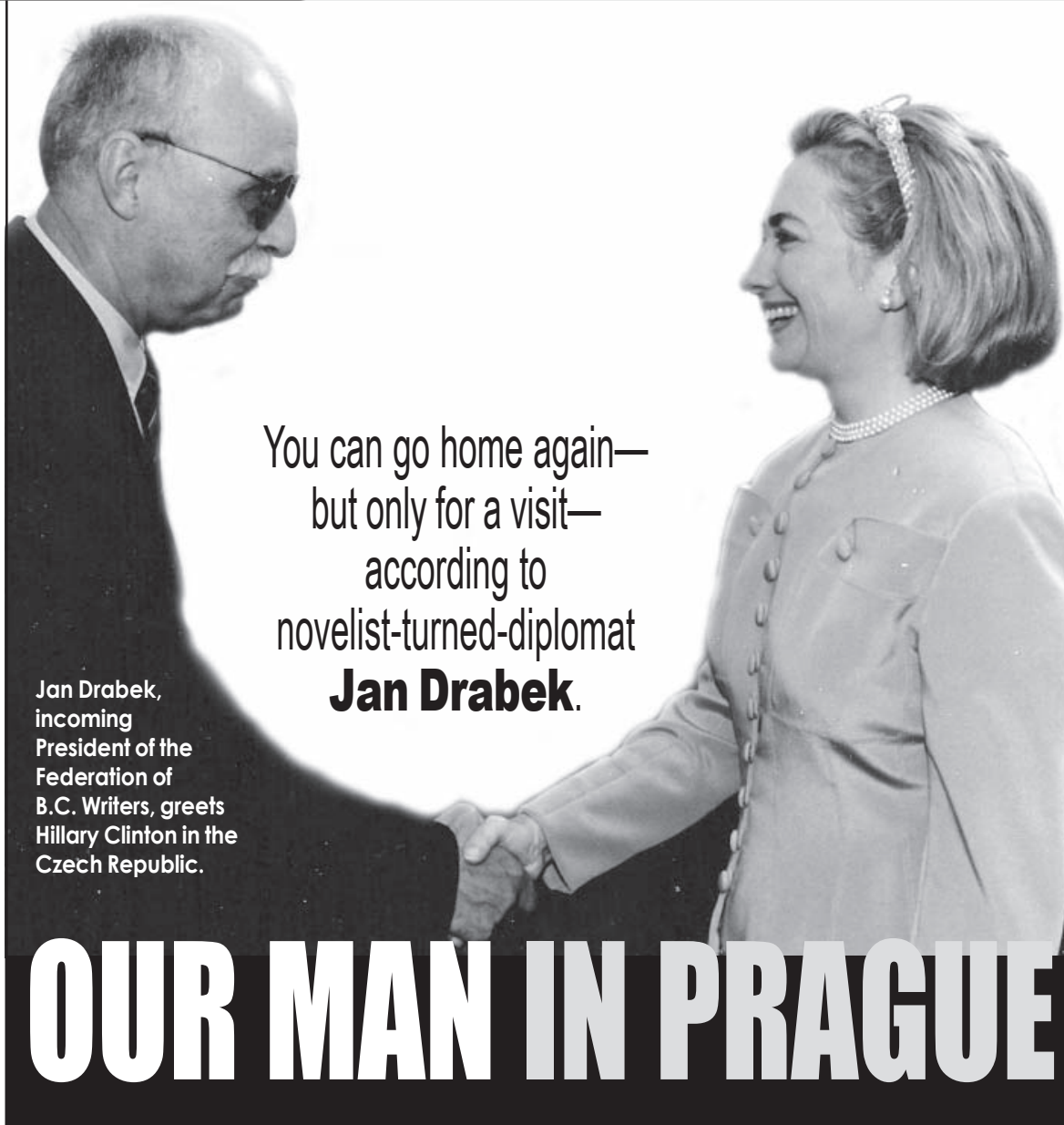
Drabek wrote a rejoinder that appeared under the heading: "Poet's Article Shows Her To Be Dupe of Moscow." Livesay replied scathingly, complaining to the Writers' Union of Canada that its B.C. representative had maligned her. Livesay also mounted a campaign that unsuccessfully opposed Drabek's election as president of the Federation of BC Writers—a position that he recently resumed.

At External Affairs, Drabek campaigned tirelessly for human rights in Eastern Europe, and militated against official visits by writers to Communist countries, on the grounds that such visits legitimized the regimes. He also took on **Farley Mowat** who, in his *Sibir: My Discovery of Siberia* (1970), had praised the wonderful lives that Soviet writers enjoyed under Communism.

So the author of *His Doubtful Excellency: A Canadian Novelist's Adventures As President Havel's Ambassador in Prague* (Ekstasis Editions \$21.95) cannot be dismissed as naïve—which makes the contents of Drabek's story that much more surprising.

His Doubtful Excellency describes Drabek's return to Prague at the end of the Communist era, full of optimism for his native land. He planned to be reunited with his extended family and to teach English, but the respect President **Vaclav Havel** had for Drabek's father, decorated posthumously as a war hero, soon catapulted Jan Drabek into the ranks of officialdom as Czech ambassador to Kenya and Albania.

Drabek also served as Chief of the Czech Diplomatic Protocol Department, during which time he played host to foreign dignitaries such as Pope



Jan Drabek, incoming President of the Federation of B.C. Writers, greets Hillary Clinton in the Czech Republic.

You can go home again—
but only for a visit—
according to
novelist-turned-diplomat
Jan Drabek.

OUR MAN IN PRAGUE

John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth, Canada's Governor General **Romeo LeBlanc**, the King and Queen of Spain, **Hillary Clinton**, and former British Prime Minister's **John Major** and **Margaret Thatcher.**

As the Chief of Protocol, Drabek was puzzled by the vague unresponsive smiles of Margaret Thatcher until another diplomat explained to him that she was deaf. Her flamboyant hairdo concealed a hearing aid that worked well in a quiet room, but not in a noisy environment.

With the visit of Governor General Romeo LeBlanc, Drabek soon realized that most Czechs couldn't understand the Canadian concept of having a head of state who was neither royal, military nor presidential.

The papal tour went off smoothly, thanks to the Vatican's well-tuned operation, but the Queen arrived during

her famous *annus horribilis*, so her entourage was eager for crowd scenes that exuded "the wild adulation of undulating mobs."

Drabek says the tensions of the Queen's visit to the Czech Republic were relieved somewhat by the cheerful irreverence of her consort, **Prince Philip.**

"I know, I know," Prince Philip told him, when they were shaking hands for the fifth time. "Never have so few shaken the hand of so few so many times to whom they owe nothing. But in this business you have to expect it."

Drabek had a special interest in **Madeleine Albright** because they had Washington, D.C. connections through their fathers. Drabek's father had been active in the Czech underground and was one of the few non-Jews sent to Auschwitz with "Return Unwanted" stamped on his papers. He was a longtime friend of **Joseph Korb**, Albright's father. When Presi-

dent **Carter** insisted on appointing some non-Jews to the Holocaust Council, Albright suggested the elder Drabek.

Drabek first welcomed Albright to Prague when she was US Ambassador to the United Nations. He expresses surprise at Albright's claim that she knew nothing of her family's Jewish background since everyone else did.

According to Drabek, Hillary Clinton prevailed upon her husband to appoint Madeleine Albright as the first female Secretary of State after the two women befriended one another during their visit to the Czech Republic under his auspices.

His Doubtful Excellency culminates in a disastrous episode that led to Drabek's estrangement from the Czech regime. With his novelist's eye for human foibles and a fine ironic style, Drabek describes his hair-raising departure from Albania—at his own expense—when he was forced to air-lift his critically ill wife without adequate support from the Czech government. After

Joan Drabek nearly died from peritonitis, a perforated ulcer and appendicitis, the Drabeks returned to Canada.

Jan Drabek went to Prague in the wake of the 1989 euphoria because he wanted to be on hand as the Czech Republic thrived, but after seven years he felt he had witnessed only moral and economic decline.

According to Drabek, half a century of Communist rule is not easily shed, nor can the Czechs face their past honestly—that would expose too much sordidness, and too many moral failures. He concludes that although "the democratic machinery is pretty much all in place in the Czech Republic, there is just this woeful dearth of trained, experienced mechanics."

Drabek remains convinced that democracy is an acquired trait that takes a long time to develop into a workable form.

1-894800-87-7


Joan Givner reviews biographies and autobiographies on a regular basis.



fernie writers conference

Monday, July 23 through Sunday, July 29, 2007

Gathering writers of all abilities to work with noted authors in intensive one week and three day workshops. Special guests—editors, publishers, and writers—will meet with participants. Readings. Panel discussions. Scholarships available. **Hosted by Griz Inn at Fernie Alpine Resort.**

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
|  John Keeble Novel Workshop July 23 thru July 29 |  Angie Abdou Short Story Workshop July 27 thru July 29 | Brenda Schmidt Poetry Workshop July 27 - July 29 | Jeff Wallach Golf/Travel Workshop July 27 - July 29 | TBA Fishing Workshop July 27 - July 29 |
|--|---|---|--|---|


for more information visit: **www.ferniewriters.org**

For registration: **1-888-423-6855**

Lead Sponsor



2nd Tier Sponsors

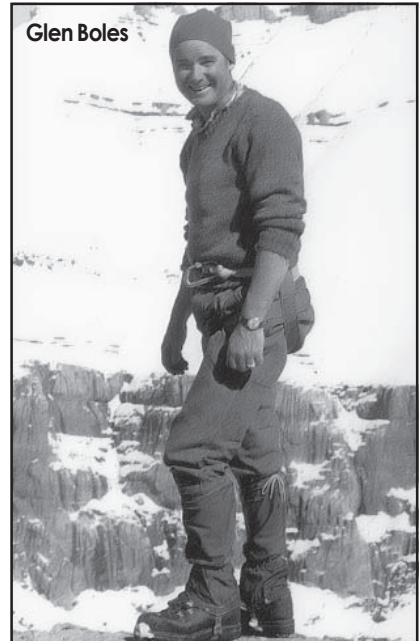



The Arts Station
FERNIE, BC

He gets high with a little help from his friends

Having summited more than 450 peaks in the Rockies, often by difficult new routes, artist and photographer **Glen Boles** pays tribute to his closely-knit group of friends known as the “Grizzly Group” in *My Mountain Album: Art & Photography of the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains* (Rocky Mountain Books \$64.95).

The Grizzly Group didn’t derive its name from our defunct basketball franchise; it arose from an incident in 1973 when four tired and hungry climbers arrived in Lyell meadows in the Rockies.



“Look at that big pile of dung, it’s still steaming,” said **Mike Simpson**. As everyone else dropped their packs and knelt to swill some cold creek water, **Don Forest** proceeded towards a small spruce tree a short distance up the meadow, located in a level spot, as he looked for a good place to camp.

“We were very surprised to hear Don making a sound like a dog barking. ‘Woof! Woof!’ as he slowly started coming back towards us,” recalls Glen Boles. “Then we noticed the grizzly.”

Still saying, ‘Woof! Woof!’ to warn the group, Don Forest had to carefully go back towards the bear to retrieve his pack. By this time the bear was standing, swaying. “Spellbound, we watched as the bear looked us over,” writes Boles, “then took off up the hill, stopping once more to have another look at these strange beings.”

1-894765-78-8

Two route canals

Having moved from Vancouver to Hong Kong in 1987, Nottinghamshire-raised sailor **Adrian Sparham** rejected an airline industry promotion for a posting in New Zealand and chose instead to sail to Europe from Hong Kong via the Suez Canal with his Dutch-born wife, Lot, and their dog, Fluke, in a 37-foot steel ketch, *Moonshiner*.

After a three-year stopover in Holland, they sailed back to Vancouver, via the Panama Canal. Their odyssey is recalled in *Slow Boat From China* (NY: Sheridan House, 2006). 1-57409-217-0 \$29.95

Express yourself and put your writing to work with Print Futures: Professional Writing Program

- ▶ Intensive instruction in technical, public relations, business, magazine and trade-publication writing
- ▶ Foundation studies in research, writing, editing, document design and production
- ▶ Courses in interpersonal communication, professional readiness
- ▶ Gain experience in industry practicums
- ▶ Enjoy networking opportunities
- ▶ Full-time and part-time options

douglascollege.ca/pf
604-527-5292
printfutures@douglas.bc.ca

Build your creative career in Stagecraft

- ▶ Acquire an intimate knowledge of the technical aspects of entertainment production
- ▶ Learn audio, lighting, properties and scenic painting skills and more
- ▶ Utilize fully-equipped scene, prop, paint, wardrobe and welding shops
- ▶ Enjoy hands-on involvement in full-scale theatrical productions
- ▶ Access strong industry contacts and career opportunities

douglascollege.ca/st
604-527-5280
stagecraft@douglas.bc.ca

Study Music in the way that’s best for you

- ▶ One-year **Basic Musicianship Certificate Program** if your formal training is limited
- ▶ Two-year **University Transfer Diploma Program** if you are an advanced musician
- ▶ Dedicated faculty who are active performers
- ▶ Excellent facilities including recording and practice studios and Performing Arts Theatre

douglascollege.ca/music
604-527-5694
caldwellr@douglas.bc.ca

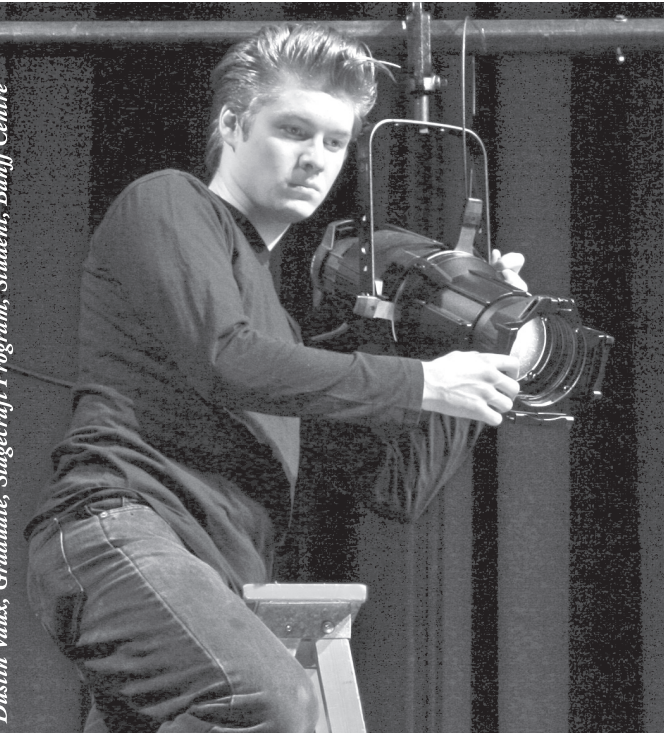


Douglas College

You can go anywhere from here



Tessa MacKinnon, Technical Writer, Graduate, Print Futures: Professional Writing Program



Dustin Vaux, Graduate, Stagecraft Program, Student, Banff Centre



Shame Raman, Graduate, Music Program

Photo by Bracken-Horrock Photography

NEW WESTMINSTER CAMPUS
700 Royal Avenue
(one block from the New Westminster SkyTrain Station)

douglascollege.ca

Who are the people in your neighbourhood?

Lately there has been a spate of in-depth, well-illustrated local histories, including **K. Jane Watt's** *High Water: Living with the Fraser Floods* (Dairy Industry Historical Society of BC) which recently won the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for historical writing.

Mr. Rogers would undoubtedly approve.

This summer's line-up of localized literary lore includes the heartening and somewhat homespun **Lantzville: The First Hundred Years** (Lantzville Historical Society, unpriced), spearheaded by **Lynn Reeve**, as well as four impressive works on North Vancouver, Desolation Sound, Mission and the Vancouver suburb of Dunbar.



For outsiders, the most accessible general history is **Heather Harbord's** well-researched *Desolation Sound: A History* (Harbour \$24.95), a project that emerged from Harbord's earlier profiles of Sliammon chief **Joe Mitchell** and Sliammon elders **Elsie Paul** and **Sue Pielle**: "Soon I realized that Powell River, where I live, was full of people who had spent their childhoods on one of the many homesteads dotted around the Sound." Located 150 kilometres from Vancouver, Desolation Sound was named by **George Vancouver**.

Harbord's character-driven history provides a map of 34 homesteads in the area that has become one of the most popular cruising destinations on the West Coast.



To mark this year's Centennial of the City of North Vancouver, geographer and cultural planning consultant **Warren Sommer** has compiled a wide-ranging social history of the North Shore that has evolved from Moodyville to accommodate more than 125,000 people today, *The Ambitious City* (Harbour \$44.95). The City of North Vancouver has 45,000 residents but Sommer's survey includes the District of North Van, as well.



Cooperatively produced and edited by the late **Peggy Schofield**, a community activist, *The Story of Dunbar* (Ronsdale \$39.95) is a 441-page volume that arose from interviews with more than 300 local residents. Celebrating people rather than Chamber of Commerce accomplishments, this feel-good summary of "voices of a Vancouver neighbourhood" contains many photos not previously published. Both playful and respectful, it owes its origins to teamwork from contributing writers that include Pam Chambers, Vivien Clarke, Shelagh Lindsey, Beryl March, Angus McIntyre, Larry Moore, Margaret Moore, Helen Spiegelman and Joan Tyldesley.



Last but not least, **Graham Dowden's** exemplary photo tribute *Around Mission* (Gyre & Gimble \$39.95) offers a superb collection of original, contemporary photos from within a 20-mile radius of the Fraser Valley community where he has lived for 32 years.

Dowden has few illusions about possibly becoming the flavour of the week. "I do realize that the distance from Vancouver to Mission," he says, "is approximately three times the distance from Mission to Vancouver." He began taking photos in the 1950s with a Kodak Baby Brownie and two pieces of advice from his father: always put people in the shot, and get as close to the subject as you can. After retiring from teaching at the University College of the Fraser Valley, he has mostly ignored his father's words of wisdom with an abundance of winter scenes, including abandoned items, rural mailboxes and Stave Lake. For more info, visit abcbookworld.com.

Lantzville 1-55383-135-7; Desolation 1-55017-407-0-X;
Ambitious City 1-55017-411-8; Dunbar 1-55380-040-0; Mission 978-0-9782328-0-1



Students at Queen Mary school during a simulated gas attack in 1941. From *The Ambitious City*.



Bill Finch with his dog Virginia Wolf and the cougar they killed. From *Desolation Sound*.



Ed Sparrow with his granddaughter Debra Sparrow from *The Story of Dunbar*.



Hatzic Prairie Community Hall from Graham Dowden's book *Around Mission*.



CARMAN EASTON PHOTO

WHO'S BAAAAAD?

Tiffany Stone can't stop making nonsense

Tiffany Stone's collection of "silly" poems about animals, *Floyd the Flamingo and His Flock of Friends* (Tradewind 2004), illustrated by **Kathryn Shoemaker**, has been followed by *Baaaaad Animals* (Tradewind \$9.95), illustrated by **Christina Leist**. Born in St-Jean, Quebec, Stone graduated with a BFA from UBC's Creative Writing Program in 1991 and has worked at Tradewind Books. She writes for the child within herself—and for her children Emory, Jewell and Kaslo.

BC BOOKWORLD: Have you always enjoyed "nonsense" verse?

TIFFANY STONE: Yes. My mum was British (and a teacher) so she read me the original *Mother Goose* poems. Dennis Lee's *Alligator Pie* came out when I was in elementary school and I absolutely loved it. When my teacher asked the class to make up our own verses to the title poem, I was in heaven!

BCBW: Have you always written it?

STONE: I have written poetry basically since I could write but most of my early stuff was descriptive and unrhymed, not a bad way to begin since it got me looking at ordinary things in a different, often slightly twisted, way. And rhyme can be limiting when you're just discovering poetry (and later on, too). I studied writing at UBC, working

taken a big chance and published my first book, *Floyd the Flamingo and His Flock of Friends*. And then people actually went out and bought the book, proving what I'd always known: kids (and many adults) love nonsense verse, especially when it's illustrated by great artists like Kathryn Shoemaker and Christina Leist.

BCBW: Were some of the poems written for your own kids?

STONE: "I guess all my poems are written for my kids. They have to pass the Emory Test before anyone sees them. Now that my daughter Jewell is almost four, my poems will have to meet her approval soon, too—and she's a tough critic! Luckily, I still have a few years before Kaslo, age one, will be throwing in his two cents worth—although if he gets hold of a pen, he's already more than happy to 'edit' my manuscripts.

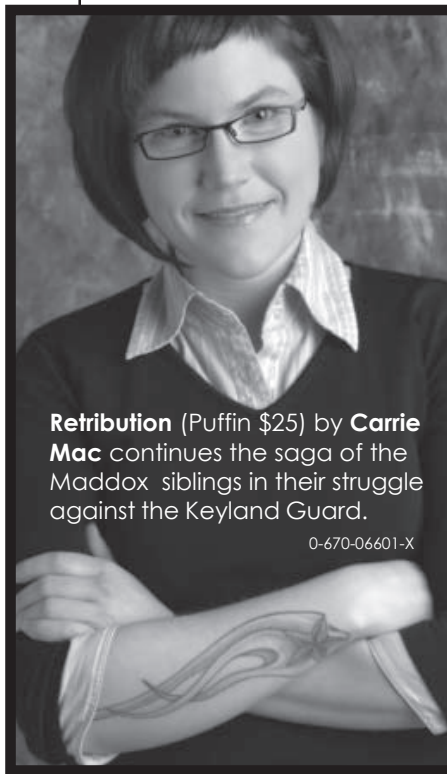
BCBW: Do you pick an animal and go from there? Or do the poems come to you unbidden?

STONE: Sometimes they just show up in my life. We've always had a lot of cats around so I have to do at least one cat poem. And several of the poems for *Baaaaad Animals* were written during a very long drive to the Yukon in our ancient RV so that explains the mosquitoes and moose and grizzly bear. Other times I pick an animal and challenge myself to write

a poem about it. "Our Club" is an example of this. And then there's the fact that animals and kids (okay, kids are technically animals) have a lot in common. Sharing a small basement suite with three kids, uncountable cats and a pet rat gives me lots of inspiration!

Sometimes poems arrive all wrapped up in shiny paper and tied with a bow. These poems are usually short. Most of the time, I have to work on them A LOT. Since my poems are meant to be read aloud, I read them aloud as I'm working on them. In fact, by the time my poems are ready for publication, Emory has heard most of them so many times, he knows them by heart.

1-896580-36-X



Retribution (Puffin \$25) by **Carrie Mac** continues the saga of the Maddox siblings in their struggle against the Keyland Guard.

0-670-06601-X

ALSO RECEIVED

Ben Franklin's War by **Stephen Eaton Hume** (Dundurn \$10.99) 1-55002-638-0

Jeremy and the Golden Fleece by **Becky Citra & Jessica Milne** (Illustrator), (Orca \$6.95) 1-55143-657-4

Theodora Bear by **Carolyn Jones & Barbara Spurr** (Illustrator), (Orca \$6.95) 1-55143-496-2

Shadows on the Train by **Melanie Jackson** (Orca \$8.95) 1-55143-660-4

South Side Sports: First and Ten by **Jeff Rud** (Orca \$8.95) 1-55143-690-6

Panther by **Roderick Haig-Brown** (Harbour \$14.95) 978-1-55017-341-3

Mirror Image by **K.L. Denman** (Orca \$9.95) 1-55143-665-5

Lucky's Mountain by **Diana Maycock** (Orca \$7.95) 1-55143-682-5

Odd Man Out by **Sarah Ellis** (Groundwood \$9.95) 0-88899-703-5

Something Suspicious in Saskatchewan by **Dayle Campbell Gaetz** (Orca \$8.95) 1-55143-565-9

Safe House by **James Heneghan** (Orca \$8.95) 1-55143-640-X

Behind the Sorcerer's Cloak: The Summer of Magic Quartet by **Andrea Spalding** (Orca \$9.95) 1-55143-627-2

Over the Rainbow with Googol and Googolplex by **Nelly Kazenbrood** (Orca \$6.95) 1-55143-469-5

The Truth About Rats (and Dogs) by **Jacqueline Pearce** (Orca \$8.95) 1-55143-473-3

Josh and the Magic Vial by **Craig Spence** (ThistleDown \$17.95)

Only a Cow by **Arlene Hamilton & Dean Griffiths** (Illustrator), (Fitzhenry & Whiteside \$19.95) 1-55041-871-8

Goodnight Sweet Pig by **Linda Bailey** (Kids Can \$18.95) 1-55337-844-X

When the Spirits Dance by **Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden** (Theytus \$19.95) 1-894778-40-5

The Airplane Ride by **Howard White & Greta Guzek** (Illustrator), (Nightwood Editions \$16.95) 0-88971-224-7

Rules

Do not tie knots in unsuspecting snakes.
Do not hop on hippos' heads to get across the lake.
Do not cheat when playing chess with cheetahs late at night.
It may not be illegal but that doesn't make it right.
Do not connect a leopard's spots or toot a rhino's horn.
Laugh at a hyena and you'll wish that you weren't born.
Do not subtract with adders.
Do not pinch a chimpanzee.
Do not, do not, do not, do NOT times ninety-nine times three.

— **Tiffany Stone**, *Baaaaad Animals* (Tradewind \$9.95)

MAD ABOUT MISS MAUD

FOR AGES 4-8
The Summer of the Marco Polo
 by Lynn Manuel (Orca \$19.95)

Having majored in history at university, **Lynn Manuel** has twice incorporated author **Lucy Maud Montgomery** into her books.

The Summer of the Marco Polo is partially based on juvenile journal entries made by Lucy Maud Montgomery that recall Cavendish, Prince Edward Island.

Specifically, the story recalls the summer when a famous clipper ship ran aground in 1883.

Manuel recalls how Lucy's strait-laced grandparents responded when the captain of the *Marco Polo* stayed at their home following the maritime mishap.

The girl who would grow up to write *Anne of Green Gables* was living in her grandparents' house at the time.

Launched from Saint John in 1851, the *Marco Polo* was once the fastest sailing ship in the world. It sprang a leak on its way to England with a cargo of timber.

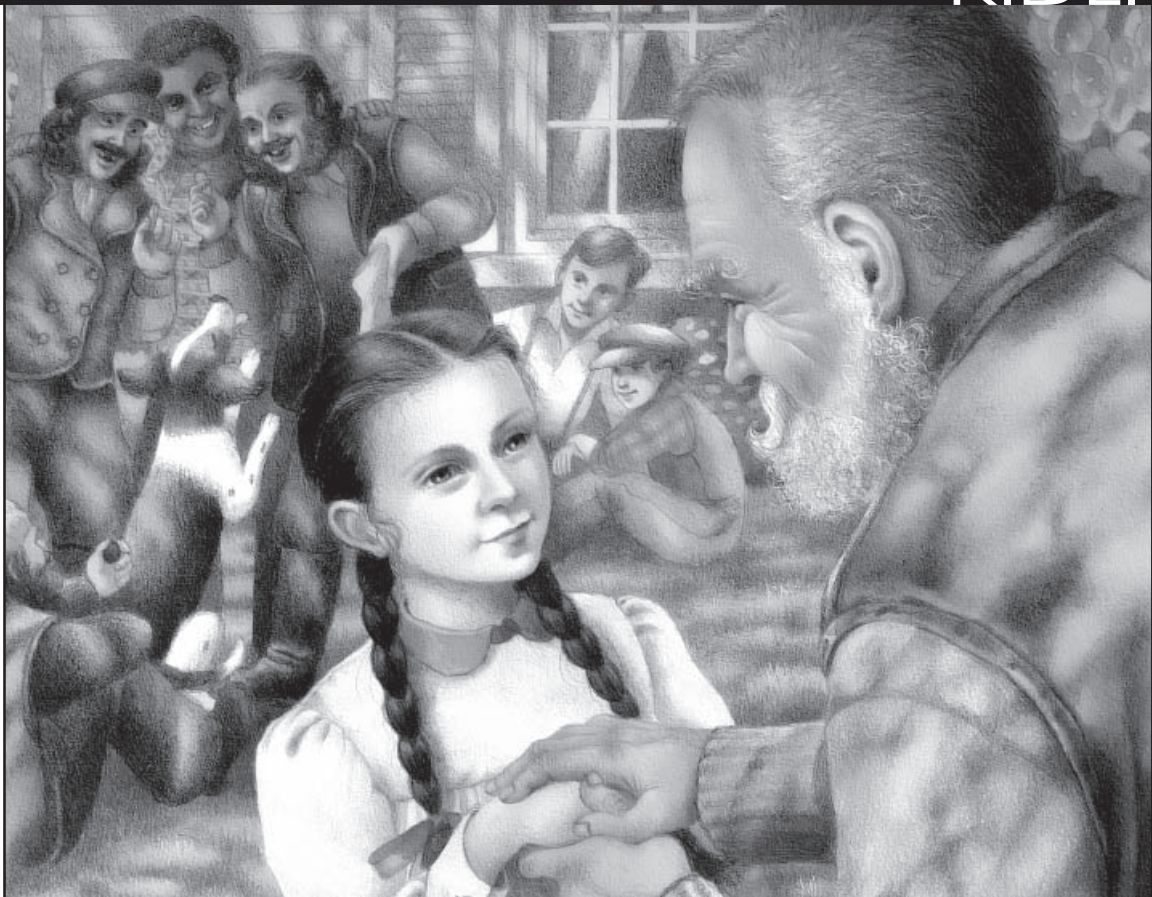
At the end of the captain's stay, Captain Bull says, "You have left your thumbprint on my heart, Miss Maud."

Asked to supply some information about herself, author Lynn Manuel of White Rock has replied, "I am a grandmother. And I've seen Paris." 1-55143-330-3

BRAINLESS IN PINK

FOR AGES 10-14
Mirror Image by K.L. Denman
 (Orca \$16.95)

Vancouver writer **K.L. Denman's** first work of teen fiction for reluctant readers, *Battle of the Bands* (Orca 2006), concerned an ambitious high school rock band named The Lunar Ticks, led by



Art by Kasia Charko, from *The Summer of the Marco Polo*

Jay, who falls in love with the leader of a rival band from a different school. Her second Orca Currents novel *Mirror Image* is a character-driven story about two outwardly different teenage girls, Sable and Lacey, who are forced to work together on a project by a sadistic grade nine art teacher, Mr. Ripley.

Lacey looks like a brainless ditz in pink, whereas Sable is super-serious and has decided to dress only in black since age thirteen. At first Sable is dismissive of Lacey, believing she treats her boyfriend as some kind of fashion accessory, but Sable, who doesn't wear make-up, gradually learns it can be foolish to judge people by their outward appearances. 1-55143-665-4

FOR TEENS 12+
The Darwin Expedition by Diane Tullson
 (Orca \$9.95)

As a follow-up to *Red Sea*, **Diane Tullson** has published another harrowing tale, this time set in the mountains beyond Whistler.

Friends since the first grade, twelfth graders Tej and Liam are avid snowboarders who have an accident with their truck on a remote logging road. Rather

than walk out of the wilderness for several days on a forestry road, Tej convinces Liam to try taking an overland shortcut.

Without any food except granola bars, Tej, the brash high achiever, jokingly tells Liam after nightfall, "Looks like you're going to win the Darwin Award—you're dying young and

stupid before you can pass along your genes. Our species is better for it."

When they know they are being tracked by a grizzly, their friendship unravels. Liam breaks his leg as they desperately escape from the bear, forcing Tej to go for help on his own.

1-55143-676-0

MORE THAN A LITTLE TEAPOT

FOR AGES 2 OR YOUNGER
What'll I Do With The Baby-o? Nursery Rhymes, Songs and Stories for Babies by Jane Cobb
 (Black Sheep \$39.95)

A children's librarian, **Jane Cobb** has been presenting kids with story time in public libraries for many years. She has also taught children's services in the Library Technician Program at Langara College in Vancouver.

Her first book, *I'm a Little Teapot!* (Black Sheep Press, 1997), a collection of nursery rhymes, songs and games for teachers, parents and librarians, has been followed by a combination audio cassette and book, *What'll I Do With The Baby-*

o? Nursery Rhymes, Songs and Stories for Babies, an attempt to create a "storytime bible" for daycares and parents concerned with pre-literacy development.

Illustrated by **Kathryn Shoemaker**, Cobb's materials are designed for children two years old or younger and include 36 songs and ten stories that are easy to tell.

0-9698666-1-5

BC Book Prizes

Sarah Ellis' *Odd Man Out* (Groundwood Books) won the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize at this year's BC Book Prizes while Maggie de Vries and Renné Benoit's *Tale of a Great White Fish: A Sturgeon Story* (Greystone Books) won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize.



Sarah Ellis



Maggie de Vries

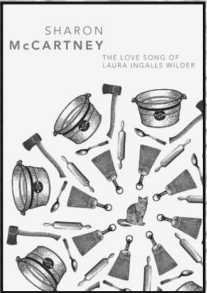
DAVID LESTER PHOTOS

NIGHTWOOD EDITIONS

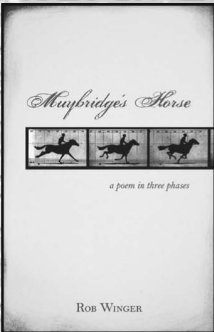
NEW CAN-LIT!



THE RUSH TO HERE
George Murray
 Relentlessly honest, elegant in form and language, *The Rush to Here* sets George Murray apart as a voice for our time.
 5¼ x 7½, 80 pages, paper • 978-0-88971-229-4 • \$16.95



THE LOVE SONG OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER
Sharon McCartney
 An unusual collection of poems that combines craft, innovation, humour and down-to-earth insight in a focused and riveting read that will charm poetry buffs of every stripe.
 5¼ x 7½, 104 pages, paper • 978-0-88971-233-1 • \$16.95



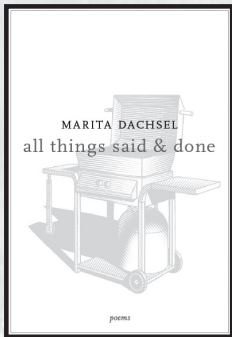
MUYBRIDGE'S HORSE
Rob Winger
 WINNER OF THE CBC LITERARY AWARD FOR POETRY
 Part history, part invention, a long poem that follows the career of Eadweard Muybridge, whose studies led to the invention of moving pictures.
 5½ x 8½, 200 pages, paper • 978-0-88971-231-7 • \$16.95



SIX WAYS TO SUNDAY
Christian McPherson
 A lively first collection of stories that guides readers through shady pool halls, suburban skateboarder showdowns, greasy restaurant kitchens and dangerous drug dens.
 5½ x 8½, 182 pages, paper • 978-0-88971-227-0 • \$19.95

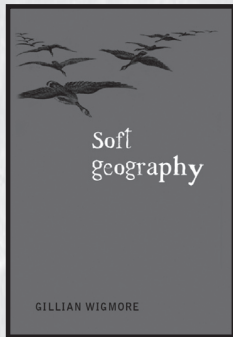
Caitlin Press

NEW BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!



All Things Said & Done

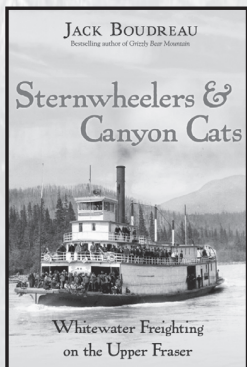
POEMS
Marita Dachsel
978-1-894759-22-9 • \$15.95



Soft Geography

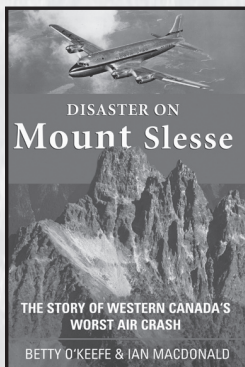
POEMS
Gillian Wigmore
978-1-894759-23-6 • \$15.95

DON'T MISS THESE RECENT BESTSELLERS



Sternwheelers & Canyon Cats

Whitewater Freighting on the Upper Fraser
Jack Boudreau
978-1-894759-20-5 • \$18.95



Disaster on Mount Slesse

The Story of Western Canada's Worst Air Crash
Betty O'Keefe and Ian Macdonald
978-1-894759-21-2 • \$21.95

CAITLIN PRESS

Box 219, Madeira Park, BC V0N 2H0
Toll-free ordering: 1 800 667-2988 (tel) • 1 877 604-9449 (fax)
caitlin@harbourpublishing.com • www.caitlin-press.com

reviews

POETRY

THE DESERT OF MIDDLE AGE

BY HANNAH MAIN-VAN DER KAMP

The Aviary by Miranda Pearson (Oolichan \$17.95)

Miranda Pearson's *The Aviary* is a collection of sadnesses; not the fierce grief of injustice or bereavement but an endless grey coastal winter.

"...everyone pretends, more or less touches life with gloves on."

All the love and/or lust affairs end badly, romance is a decoy, and longing cannot be repaired.

"Desire.

It's always the same.

Its folly.

Its stubborn inability to live in contentment."

Any hope out there, a reprieve from wariness and weariness? Not much, not even in the series of six poems entitled "Yoga Retreat" written at St Peter's Abbey. Toward the conclusion of this volume, one poem hints at a tentative happiness: a walk with a friend, yellow tulips.

A dismayed middle-aged poet tries to make sense of it all. Irritable and nostalgic, the regrets would be disabling if it weren't for their poignancy, "nothing is how I planned it." Readers who have traveled in the desert of middle age will recognize the territory. For those who have not, these poems about pervasive disappointment may entice a detour. As if.

"Somebody told me

It's possible to mend the past

through imagination,

to breathe into it

a different life."

There is a chronic low-grade chill in the inner atmosphere but a truly depressed poet would not have sparks enough to write as well as Pearson does about depression; it's an exhilarating paradox. The writing is not disappointing, it's skilled. Then there is the promise of homeopathic poetics; a little more of what ails you will cure you. Perhaps a reader who can read *Aviary* deeply will be flipped out into sunlight.

0-88982-230-1

Hannah Main-Van Der Kamp writes from Victoria.



Miranda Pearson

Beacon Books

The Book Cellar

The Children's Bookshop

Country Life Books

Galleon Books and Antiques

The Haunted Bookshop

Tanner's Bargain Books

Tanner's Books

Time Enough For Books

Sidney 
Booktown
a seaside treasure



Visit our sea-side town
and discover our
9 independent bookshops,
each with its own unique
style and treasures.

Visit Sidney by the Sea
Just minutes from the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal
www.sidneybooktown.ca



Maher Arar & Monia Mazigh

awarded the 2007 Reg Robson Civil Liberties Award

The award is given annually by the BC Civil Liberties Association to those who have demonstrated a substantial and long-lasting contribution to civil liberties in B.C. and Canada.

More info: www.bcccla.org

The Federation of BC Writers

The 19th Annual
Literary Writes
Competition

Literary Writes 2007

This year's category,
Foreign Affairs:
Travel Stories with a Twist!

Deadline: July 1, 2007
First Prize: \$500 and
publication in *WordWorks*

Submission guidelines at
www.bcwriters.com

Choosing our Destiny

Creating the Utopian world
In the 21st Century

Cyril Belshaw

Draft awarded
2005 World Utopian
Championship
Stockholm

See
www.soc.nu/utopian

ISBN Hard 1-4257-2244-X
Soft 1-4257-2243-1

Triple AAA
portrait of
Ivan E.
Coyote



TRIPLE AAA PHOTOGRAPHY



Authors, Artists & Actors
publicity portraits

Cell: 604 454 7195

tripleaaaphoto.laura@gmail.com



ANN THOMSON

WINNING CHOICE ON ABORTION

How British Columbian
and Canadian Feminists
Won the Battles of the
1970s and 1980s

VanCity Book Prize
Finalist

"The book that tells the
whole BC story."
—DR. HENRY MORGENTHAU

Available at bookstores & online at
Amazon, Chapters, Trafford—\$27.99
ISBN 1-4120-4247-X

Subscribe

To receive the next 7 issues by mail,
send a cheque for \$21.20

Name

Apt/Box #.....

Street.....

City.....

Prov/Code.....

Reply to: 3516 West 13th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2S3

SHIP OF GHOULS

*The plot of Linda Rogers' **The Empress Letters** has as many twists and turns as the tunnels beneath her heroine's mansion.*

BY CHERIE THIESSEN

The Empress Letters by Linda Rogers
(Cormorant \$22.95)

The process of writing fiction in the form of letters was crafted to escape the censor's harsh judgments in the late 17th century. As this oldest form of the novel, the "epistolary novel" seems to be making a comeback of sorts. It has been utilized recently by the likes of Stephen King—and now **Linda Rogers**.

Utilizing some of her own family history for *The Empress Letters*, the first installment of a proposed trilogy, Rogers has revisited some of the clandestine shenanigans of the upper class on southern Vancouver Island. Many of us would not normally associate Victoria's opulent waterfront properties with opium smuggling, murder, and intrigue, but such things happened in Victoria's posh neighbourhoods.

"Victoria had a very thin skin of propriety," says Linda Rogers. "There were lots of tunnels during the era of opium smuggling and prohibition. The more I researched the early days, the more excited I got."

Rogers puts her research to good use in *The Empress Letters*, an epistolary novel that bristles with intrigue.

Poppy, Rogers's fictional heroine, is in her late twenties when she begins typing her letters to her daughter whilst on board the *Empress of Asia*. It's May, 1927, and the distraught young mother, en route to find her daughter, Precious, is writing to distract herself from guilty premonitions.

Her daughter, Precious, has gone missing in Peking, and it's not exactly the best of times for an exotic, privileged young foreign girl to be without her mother in China. Chiang Kai Shek and his Kuomintang are battling Mao Zedong's Communist revolutionaries, and the Japanese are wreaking havoc.

Consumed with grief at having succumbed to her daughter's entreaties to be allowed to accompany the enigmatic 'servant' Soong Chou on his family visit to Hong Kong with the bones of his niece, Boulie, Poppy has boarded the first ship available in an effort to find her. But Poppy is an unlikely rescuer.

Considerably weakened by two bouts of rheumatic fever, she may not even survive this voyage. Fortunately she's accompanied by a close friend, Tony, her husband's lover. Yes, you read that right.

Olivier, whom she married a few years previously and then left when his sexual proclivities



RICK VAN KRUGEL PHOTO

"Emily Carr taught painting to my aunt Elspeth (Rogers) Cherniavsky. My mother's family and the Dunsmuirs were friends. My grandmother was friends with the Prince of Wales. My mother has a decanter with his crest on it. I know this world as an insider/outsider, having grown up at the end of it, having observed this world of privilege." — LINDA ROGERS

became clear, has since left his London home to temporarily settle in Poppy's mansion, *Casanora*, in order to shore up the teetering household after the drug-related murder of her mother, Nora, and the subsequent loss of family income. Poppy and Olivier have continued to be the best of friends, and Poppy's affections extend to the ebullient Tony.

Poppy's story continues to unfold through letters typed over the ten days in her first class stateroom, while the ship calls at Honolulu, Yokohama, and Shanghai, where Poppy's hoped-for reunion may take place. Surrounded by the ghosts of her past, she endeavours to

share all with her daughter, even though her letters may never reach their target.

The spectres of Poppy's dead father, rumored to have been shot, and of her recently murdered mother, surround her as she writes. Her first love, Alec, killed while still a teenager in W.W.1, is also not far away, and the spirits of both her beloved childhood friend, Boulie, and of her nanny, Duffie—both of whom died in the same fire from which Boulie managed to rescue Precious—continue to hover.

So much death. And so much need for rescue.

Cliffhangers abound in this rakish tale. Did Nora murder her first husband, Poppy's fa-

ther? What is happening in those mysterious tunnels under *Casanora*? Who is Soong Chou?

Will Poppy find Precious in China? And who is Precious's father? Is it Alec or the inscrutable Soong Chou?

The plot of *The Empress Letters* has as many twists and turns as the tunnels beneath the heroine's mansion. Almost as fascinating is how much of the interesting details are non-fiction:

"Casanora is an actual place on Beach Drive," says Rogers. "My great-grandmother, an amazing gardener, inspired Nora. Her beautiful landscaping is still evident. There is a tunnel from the house to the sea. As a child, I wondered about it."

Rogers is now at work completing a family saga trilogy, based upon Victoria, that spans the 20th century. The second, *The Third Day Book*, will take place in 1960, chronicled by Precious in letters to be given to her own daughter, Lily. The third installment, *The Cheddar Letter*, will be Lily's story. "The third book ends with a revelation that bonds the generations," says Rogers.

Having spent most of her life in Victoria, Rogers comes by her subject matter honestly, but it's not fact masquerading as fiction.

"The details in this novel are as true as I could make them," she says, "but the story is fantasy. Any 'real' characters are based on family anecdote.

"Emily Carr taught painting to my aunt Elspeth (Rogers) Cherniavsky. My mother's family and the Dunsmuirs were friends. My grandmother was friends with the Prince of Wales. My mother has a decanter with his crest on it.

"I know this world as an insider/outsider, having grown up at the end of it, having observed this world of privilege."

Rogers believes that good families make for a good world. "That is the goal. There is redemption in working for peace in the family, in the community and in the world. It's a sad fact, however, that 'good' characters are seldom the stuff of riveting fiction. The reader can rest assured that Rogers' characters in *The Empress Letters* fall far shy of goodness. In fact, they're outrageously naughty.

We await the mini-series.

1896951805

Cherie Thiessen writes from the Pender Islands (plural).

LOOKOUT

"I didn't think
I'd live to see
thirty"

PETER A. ROBSON PHOTO

Dispatches from Tahsis

Our unofficial foreign correspondent Anne Cameron, who lives far beyond the urban shenanigans of the Lower Mainland, sends us her first report.

Rain. Such a novelty. Pussy willows, crocus and primroses are starting, columbine is beginning to re-grow... and the Tahsis Legion is fully occupied with planting oriental poppies around the cenotaph.

Most poppy seeds don't produce plants so I have patriotically offered to contribute my own poppy plant babies. In spite of Harpoon and his warbirds in Snottawa, one does feel the odd twinge of rah rah. Anyway I'm tired of having to weed grass out of the damned containers.

I would LOVE to come to Reckoning 07, that publishing conference in September, and talk about B.C. books. Be interesting to get a discussion going on the huge split between what is accepted by the illiterati in the rarefied circles and what is actually read by the unwashed who use the libraries and used bookstores.

Are publishers turning into tremulous old farts, tip-toeing their way through manuscripts like a banker en pointe through columns of percentages

because the dwindling number of readers are voting neo-con for no reason other than the Left has lain down like fat poodles gone mute or are the voters giving the nod of approval to Harpo because the publishers fear "political" or "radical" the way the citizens once feared the plague, rats and fleas? Or am I just blowing smoke out of a particular orifice and writing absolute shite these days?

I continue to plug away at what I think is important and hey, you never know, I might win the 6/49. When that happens, don't even bother packing, we'll buy new stuff when we get there.

Meanwhile I am declaring war on General Motors. DO NOT BUY A BLAZER!!! You will wind up in the poor house because of buying new brakes. Three times in the past year-and-a-half I had to buy brakes. We have hills, we have gravel roads going up or down mountainsides, so, yes, by all means, let's have brakes.

So the damned things started to screech again, which I'm told is how "they" warn you you're running out of

brake power, little cunningly placed pieces of metal to howl and wail when you get down so far...

This time Agatha, my daughter-in-law, drove the bitch of a little red hen out to Campbell River to see the GM people at their big shiny garage. Totally hooped. Going to be sixteen hundred for parts and at least four hundred for labour, take a full day, they said. F---. Last month it was the computer. Double F---. Have I, at some point in some previous life, accumulated sour karma with regard to things with moving parts? Did I chop down a gibbet or take a sledge hammer to a guillotine? I repent! If, in another incarnation, I was wont to saw through wooden spokes on the wheels of wagons heading westward, I apologize.

Speaking of C.R., one entire area of C.R. is now mainly First Nations people. So many of my daughter-in-law's reserve members have moved away, they now hold band meetings in Campbell River where they live marginalized lives in truly crappy apartment buildings. Sociologically, I think that is hugely significant but I betcha none of the academic-y types

are even aware of it, let alone think it's important. So I got *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens and I'm re-reading it. I am really struck by how NOW it is!! He had much to say about how entire populations were being forced into cities by industrialization.

But not to worry, Gorderator has met with the Governor and they'll fix it all up just fine 'n' dandy.

Thank God for my long-time acquaintances at the Powell River Credit Union. When I win the 6/49 I'm letting them handle it for me after they come back from a holiday in the Bahamas. "Wendy" phoned to say, 'Listen, Cam, you'll be 69 in August, and you HAVE to do something about your vast fortune, it has to go from RRSP to....' And I said HUH and she said, 'Don't worry, I'll mail you the forms, all you'll have to do is sign, I'll do the rest for you.' So they came, I signed and sent 'em back and then sat in the bathtub and thought, hey, my mom was pregnant for nine months so by the time I was three months old I was really a year old so a birthday means you're finishing the year not starting it so... I'm almost seventy!!

I didn't think I'd live to see thirty.

Anne Cameron is a novelist and humourist who lives in a trailer home on the West Coast of Vancouver Island at Tahsis. For more info, visit www.abcbookworld.com

THE CONQUEROR & the Concubine

How the most influential woman in North American history translated her way to the top

*The Spanish conquest of the New World casts shadows on the lives of all the contemporary characters in Amanda Hale's **The Reddening Path** (Thistledown, \$18.95), the story of a Guatemalan adoptee, raised in Toronto, who returns to Guatemala to search for her Mayan birth mother.*

*In particular, Hale has re-imagined the love affair between the Spanish conqueror **Hernan Cortéz** and his indigenous translator and concubine, **Malinche**. Although she has been working on her novel for years, Hale was beaten to the punch—in Spanish—with the release of a novel called **Malinche** by **Laura Esquivel**, the Mexican author of *Like Water for Chocolate*.*

The resourceful Malinche learned Spanish, became Cortéz's mistress, enabled him to overcome Montezuma and bore him a son named Martín. To this day, the derogatory word malinchista is used by Mexicans to describe someone who unduly apes the language and customs of another country.

*Simultaneously **Isabel Allende** has released a similar novel, **Inés of My Soul**, to appreciatively recall the life of a Spanish seamstress who became the lover of conquistador **Pedro de Valdivia**. After helping him slaughter the indigenous tribes of Chile and Peru, she founded the city of Santiago, built hospitals and fed the poor.*

*There's got to be a **Penelope Cruz** movie in here somewhere...*



Laura Esquivel



Isabel Allende

To appreciate the life story of Malinche, it's necessary to revisit the year 1511 when **Diego Velázquez** was sent from Hispaniola to conquer and explore Cuba. He brought along an ambitious young secretary, **Hernan Cortéz**, who became the first mayor of Cuba's second largest city, **Santiago de Cuba**, on the eastern end of the island.

Charming and well-educated, Cortéz was also untrustworthy. At age 34, having jilted a Spanish noblewoman and upset Governor Velázquez, he hurriedly sailed from eastern Cuba for the Mexican mainland in 1519, eager for riches. With 508 soldiers, plus about 100 sailors, Cortéz easily overcame some coastal Indians at Tabasco. They had never seen horses before and initially thought a man on a horse was a single beast.

A truce was arranged on March 27, 1519. Defeated chiefs in the Tabasco area brought Cortéz gold, food and 20 female slaves. Among these 'cooks' was a 16-year-old woman who spoke the local dialect, as well as the Nahuatl language of the much-despised Aztecs who occupied the interior of Mexico. Evidently high-born by virtue of her intelligence and bearing, she was christened **Doña Marina**.

It wouldn't do to have sex with an infidel. Cortéz initially gave this unusual woman to his close friend, **Alonso Hernández**

Puertocarrero, but when it soon became apparent Marina could be extremely useful for his expedition—and she was beautiful in the bargain—Cortéz conveniently sent Puertocarrero to deliver an update on his success to **King Carlos V** in Spain, thereby making it easy for him to keep Marina for his own purposes.

Also in Cortéz's entourage was a previously shipwrecked Spanish priest named **Aguilar** who could translate between Spanish and the local dialect.

With the help of the Spanish priest, Marina's background became clear. She was the daughter of a Nahuatl nobleman or *cacique*, meaning chieftain. She had been sold into slavery by her mother after her father's death. Marina's mother had wanted to ensure her son from a second marriage would gain ascendancy.

A foot soldier with Cortéz, **Bernal Díaz**, described Marina as "good looking and intelligent and without embarrassment."

She was "a *cacica* with towns and vassals" and she learned Spanish quickly. Doña Marina soon became indispensable to Cortéz as his translator and constant companion. Without her, a contingent of 1,300 Spaniards and Indians could never have defeated the Aztec empire.

To her own people, Marina would forever be known as *La Malinche*, meaning betrayer.

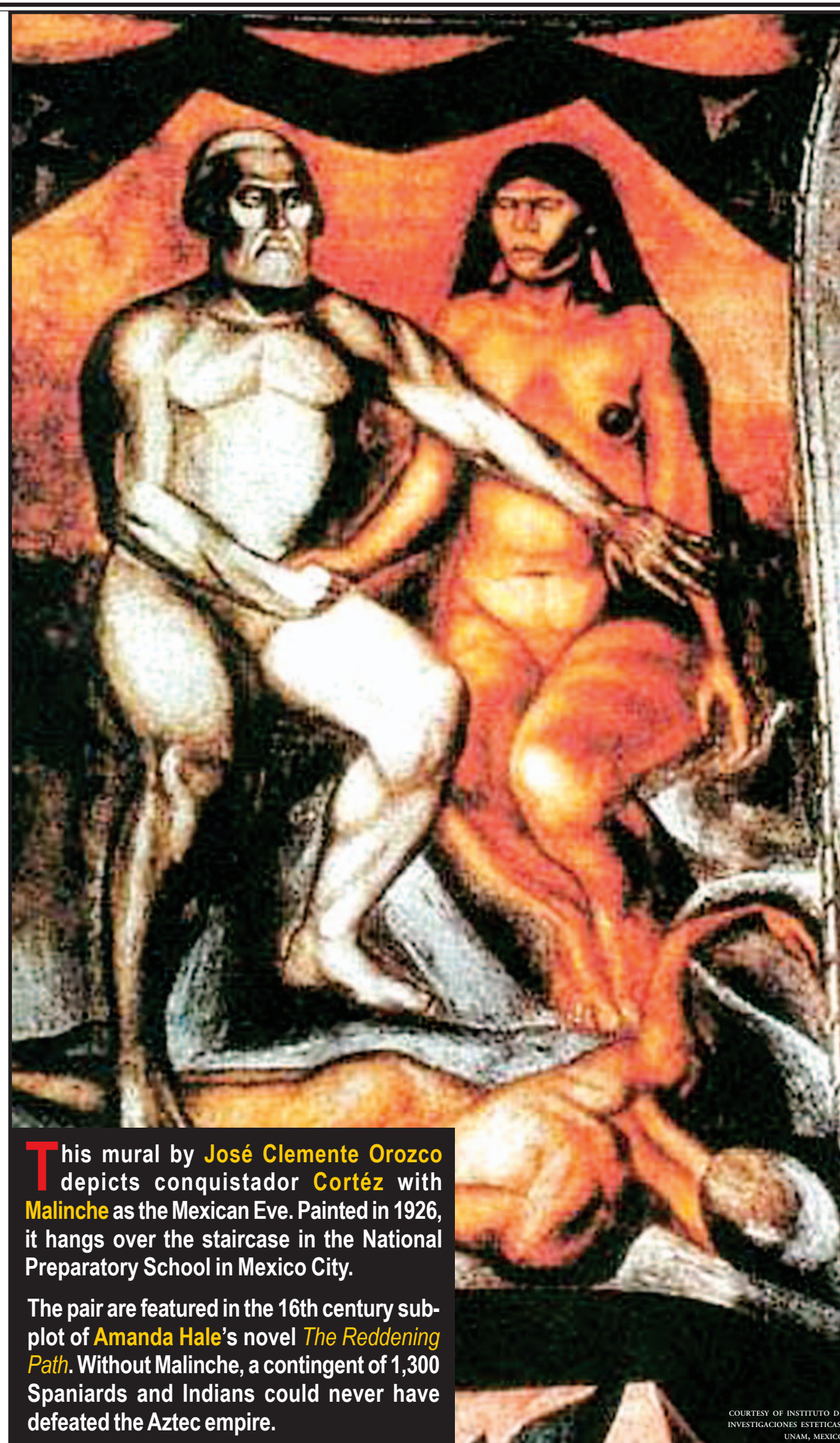
The Man Who Would Be Quetzalcoatl

Continuing further west, Cortéz established a settlement called Vera Cruz, not far from present-day Veracruz, where he learned of an enormous inland city, Tenochtitlán, on the site of present-day Mexico City.

At Vera Cruz, Cortéz also first learned about the Aztec emperor, **Montezuma II**, who was represented by **Teudilli** of Quintaloor. When the explorer learned about Montezuma's magnificent inland city of Tenochtitlán (Cortéz called it Temixtitlan—now it's Mexico City), he burned some of his own ships to prevent his men from turning back and informing Cuba's Governor Velázquez of his plans.

The Aztecs were a nomadic civilization that had migrated from western Mexico to the valley of Mexico during the 14th century, supplanting the Toltecs. As luck had it for Cortéz, the Aztecs were anticipating the return of their ancient Feathered Serpent god, **Quetzalcoatl**, from the east. Bringing gifts of gold to Vera Cruz, the Aztec delegations wanted to know if the strange and powerful visitors were gods or mortals.

With essential assistance from Marina, Cortéz was able to take advantage of the situation and pretend to represent their prodigal god. Quetzalcoatl was from the city of Tula, north of Tenochtitlán, formerly the seat of power for the Toltecs who had dominated Mesoamerica from 850 A.D. to 1200 A.D. When the Aztecs, or *Mexicas*, replaced the Toltecs in the Valley of



This mural by **José Clemente Orozco** depicts conquistador **Cortéz** with **Malinche** as the Mexican Eve. Painted in 1926, it hangs over the staircase in the National Preparatory School in Mexico City.

The pair are featured in the 16th century subplot of **Amanda Hale's** novel *The Reddening Path*. Without Malinche, a contingent of 1,300 Spaniards and Indians could never have defeated the Aztec empire.

Mexico, Aztec rulers had taken the name of Quetzalcoatl. The god had deserted the people and became known as Kukulcan among the Maya.

When the emissaries for Montezuma asked if this strange, helmeted man with the floating houses could be Quetzalcoatl, Hernan Cortéz—much like **Sean Connery** in the movie *The Man Who Would Be King*—wasn't about to disappoint. With the help of Marina, he did little to disabuse them of this notion. To this end, Cortéz encouraged Indian suspicions that his men were immortal by burying his dead quickly. He also pretended to talk to his horse, as if his horses were rational creatures, like men.

Whereas the Aztecs had only seen Chihuahuas, the Spaniards had ferocious attack dogs. Armed with crossbows and *arquebuses* (Spanish muskets), escorted by a dozen cav-

alry, the Spaniards overwhelmed and formed an alliance with the fearsome Tlaxcalan Indians near the coast, enemies of the Aztecs.

While on the coast, Marina infiltrated the local people and learned from an elderly woman that the Aztecs were planning a surprise attack. The woman's husband was a Tlaxcalan captain who had received gifts from Montezuma II to encourage the ambush. Cortéz was able to launch a pre-emptive attack in Cholula, close to present day Puebla, killing 3,000 Cholulans and sending the Aztecs fleeing back to Montezuma.

The foot soldier Díaz praised Marina for helping to spare them from the Aztec priests who were known to cut open captives' chests, sawing through the breastbone with an obsidian knife, then ripping out still-beating hearts.

According to Díaz, Marina "possessed such manly valour that, although she had heard every day how the Indians were going to kill us and eat our flesh with chilli, and had seen us surrounded in the late battles, and knew that all of us were

wounded and sick, yet [she] never allowed us to see any sign of fear in her, only a courage passing that of a woman."

The Tlaxcalans marched with Cortéz into the magnificent Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán (the place where men become gods) on November 8, 1519. They crossed Lake Texcoco on a "broad causeway running straight and level."

Taking Tenochtitlán

Cortéz and his men were overwhelmed by the size and richness of the Aztec capital with its 250-foot Pyramid of the Sun. Tenochtitlán had been developed over centuries by various peoples from approximately 150 B.C. to 750 A.D. Some five hundred years after its builders had disappeared from the site, the Aztecs arrived to possess it. By 250 A.D. it had spread to include nine square miles; by 450 A.D. it was possibly the largest city in the world. It has been estimated the city had a population of 300,000 in 60,000 dwellings amid floating gardens.

Presents were exchanged but tensions grew after two Spanish envoys were killed. Surrounded by thousands of Aztecs, Cortéz famously seized Montezuma II as his hostage. It was an impasse worthy of a Hollywood thriller. Montezuma II offered bribes to Marina if she would forfeit her allegiance to Cortéz. Marina wasn't dissuaded. Montezuma II was ninth in a succession of powerful Aztec *caciques*; he had been in power for 18 years—longer than Marina had been alive—but Marina somehow managed the negotiations between the two powerful men.

The Aztecs numbered 20,000 but by seizing their leader, Cortéz dealt them a psychological blow. Cortéz's distant relation, **Francisco Pizarro**, would adopt the same manoeuvre when he treacherously took the Inca leader Atahualpa hostage in 1532, defeating thousands of Incas with only 168 Spaniards.

Back in Cuba, Velázquez was determined to bring Cortéz to trial. When Cortéz learned that Velázquez was sending an 18-ship expedition with 900 soldiers under **Panfilo de Narvaez** to capture him, he decided to leave

his lieutenant **Alvarado** and only 140 men, setting off to surprise the Spaniards with only 260 men of his own, taking Malinche with him to serve as his translator.

The surprise attack worked. Cortéz co-opted much of the Spanish forces and hastened back to Tenochtitlán where the Aztecs had rebelled against Alvarado. Back at Tenochtitlán, Cortéz asked Montezuma II to quell growing unrest among the Aztecs. As in *The Man Who Would Be King*, Cortéz never understood that a tribal council of Aztec priests actually held sway, guided by oracles. When Cortéz ordered Montezuma II to appear in public, the crowd hurled stones. One rock hit the emperor. Montezuma died three days later.

The Aztecs drove the Spaniards out of the city on June 30, 1520. Aztecs attacked from canoes on both sides of the causeway as the Spanish fled. Cortéz was almost captured in the confusion. At the ensuing Battle of Otumba, he lost 860 men. He lost 72 more men at Tustepec while retreating to his allied city of Tlaxcala. Once again he was fortunate. An outbreak of smallpox, brought by his men, decimated the Aztec population. Cortéz reorganized that summer, incorporating equipment and reinforcements from Vera Cruz, and laid siege to the Aztec capital once more.

On August 13, 1521, the new emperor named **Cuahtemoc** was captured. Entering the city Cortéz found it in ruins "like some huge churchyard with the corpses disinterred, and the tombstones scattered about." Famine and smallpox had been more lethal than guns. Cortéz began building the Aztec capital that would become the world's most populated city. This marked the onset of Mexico's 300-year colonial history, ending in 1821.

One too many Martins

In 1522, Cortéz's his first wife arrived unbidden from Cuba. She died almost overnight, inexplicably. This didn't help Cortéz's already notorious reputation. Velázquez was conspiring against the disobedient and ungrateful Cortéz in court, charging Cortéz with failure to remit the *quito*, one-fifth of the booty required for the king. Cortéz returned to face these charges in Madrid and was exonerated. Cortéz was named governor, captain-general and chief justice of New Spain by King Carlos V in 1523.

During the conquest, Marina bore Cortéz a son named **Martín**. After Cortéz's second Spanish wife also bore him a son named **Martín**, the Mestizo (mixed blood) Martín became like a servant for his fully Spanish half-brother. When they were both arrested for plotting against the Spanish crown, the younger Martín was spared; the Mestizo Martín was tortured.

In 1524, having conquered Mexico, Hernan Cortéz learned **Cristobal de Olid** had proclaimed the independence of Spanish Honduras. To remove this upstart official, Cortéz began a grueling, fantastical overland trek towards Spanish Honduras that ranks with Hannibal's journey over the Alps. Departing from Vera Cruz on the Mexican coast, he marched in a straight line towards Trujillo on the east coast of Central America, tor-

turing and hanging Cuahtemoc along the way, having become obsessed with the notion that somehow Cuahtemoc was planning a revolt.

This *entrada* of about 140 soldiers and several thousand Indians had to traverse high mountains and dense jungles. While slashing his way through uncharted territory, Hernan Cortéz would have passed through the southwest corner of Belize, making them the first Europeans to set eyes on Belize from the east. Order was easily restored in Honduras in 1525. (Cortéz once said it was more difficult contending with his own countrymen than fighting against the Aztecs.)

Several attempts by Cortéz to return to Mexico by sea ended in shipwrecks. Becoming despondent, Cortéz began dressing in the black robes of a Dominican monk, issuing morose premonitions of his own death. He returned by sea to Mexico, via Cuba, thereby encircling Belize. In 1526 he was relieved of his command in Mexico City by **Ponce de León**, who died of fever after only twenty days in office. His successor died after two months. Once more, sudden deaths did little to enhance Cortéz's reputation.

While remaining in control of Mexico from 1530 to 1541, he argued with **Don Antonio de Mendoza**, the first viceroy of New Spain, about who had the right to explore and annex California. Cortéz consolidated and expanded his domain by exploring Guatemala, Honduras, Baja California and the Pacific Coast, but like Columbus he would ultimately feel inadequately rewarded.

Cortéz was given the royal run-around for three years when he was debt-ridden and needed to make a claim on the royal treasury. His authority gradually eroded and his reputation especially waned after his participation in the unsuccessful 1541 Spanish expedition against Algiers. He became known as a chronic complainant. Accused of murdering his first wife (he strangled her but the Spanish government opted not to declare him innocent or guilty), Cortéz was also long suspected of murdering a Spanish envoy in 1526.

While attempting to return to Mexico, Cortéz was stricken with dysentery in Seville and died there on December 2, 1547. His remains were brought back to Mexico City and interred within the walls of a chapel behind the Hospital de Jesús, one of the many hospitals he founded.

As for Marina, the translator, she traveled with Cortéz on his trek into Honduras, via Belize, to Trujillo, during which she re-united with her mother and half-brother, supposedly forgiving them. It's possible Marina was originally from the Belize/Honduras area, a Mayan descendent, but most researchers suggest she was from Paynala, the Gulf region of Coatzacoalcas, near the Tehuantepec isthmus, in which case her native tongue was Popoluca.

Having married Spanish soldier **Juan Jaramillo**, she settled in the province of Nogales. Cortéz gave the couple an estate 50 miles north of Mexico City, and also gave her land on the Gulf, in her homeland, so that she might return there to die. Although Cortéz has long been vilified by Latin historians and artists, it's clear he was not merely a brutal character.

Marina had at least one other child, **Fernando Gómez de Oroscó y Figueroa**, born in Tlaxapan, who died nine years later. In Amanda Hale's novel, Marina gives birth to a daughter. It is believed Marina died at a relatively young age, around 1530, but where and when remains unknown.

In his letters to King Carlos V, Cortéz mentions Marina only twice, he refers to her as "my interpreter, who is an Indian woman" in the second and mentions her name in the fifth.

In *The Reddening Path*, Hale has sympathetically re-examined Malinche's life as a distant mirror for the complex bi-cultural path that her heroine Pamela is required to walk. In the process, she recasts Malinche as easily one of most remarkable and influential women in the course of North American history.



Ron Howard, Star Trek & Malinche...

Often vilified, Malinche was portrayed by **Virginia Zuri** in the 1933 Mexican motion picture *La Llorona* (at right). In his work that examines Mexican culture originating from rape and violation, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, **Octavio Paz** views La Malinche as the mother of Mexican culture. Amanda Hale has based her interpretation of Malinche mainly on **Ana Lanyon's** non-fiction study, *Malinche's Conquest*. Several other novels have variously interpreted her character, including **H.R. Haggard's** *Montezuma's Daughter*, **Colin Falconer's** *Feathered Serpent: A Novel of the Mexican Conquest* and **Gary Jennings's** *Aztec*. Optioned by film director **Ron Howard**, a screenplay about La Malinche called *The Serpent and the Eagle* is currently under development at Paramount Pictures. Trivia buffs take note: A *Star Trek* episode included a Federation starship named *S.S. Malinche*.



Amanda Hale