

#readlocalbc

Anvil Press

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Fenton Street Press

Greystone Books

Harbour Publishing

Heritage House Publishing

McKellar & Martin Publishing

New Star Books

Oolichan Books

Orca Book Publishers

Pacific Educational Press

Poppy Productions

Rocky Mountain Books

Ronsdale Press

Royal BC Museum

Self-Counsel Press

Sono Nis Press

Talonbooks

TouchWood Editions

Tradewind Books

UBC Press



BE BOOK AWARE

The Association of Book Publishers of BC is proud to present Read Local BC, a project to celebrate the extraordinary depth of BC publishing. Throughout the month of April look out for events in bookstores, stories in the media, BC books in classrooms, BC ebook collections in libraries, and ... bears with books in locales throughout the province.



APRIL 2015

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READ LOCAL - BUY LOCAL - THINK GLOBAL

















BC TOPSELLERS*

Whitewater Cooks with Passion (Sandhill Book Marketing \$34.95) by Shelley Adams has been topping the BC Bestsellers list for more than twenty consecutive weeks. It shares recipies, flavours, ingredients, conversation, wine and laughter.

Knitting Stories (Sono Nis \$28.95) by Sylvia Olsen

Every Last Drop: Bringing Clean Water Home (Orca Footprints \$19.95) by Michelle Mulder

When Everything Feels like the Movies (Arsenal Pulp Press \$15.95) by Raziel Reid

Cardboard Ocean (Harbour \$32.95) by Mike McCardell

Canadian Spacewalkers (D&M \$29.95) by Bob McDonald

The White Oneida (Ronsdale Press \$11.95) By Jean Rae Baxter

Global Chorus: 365 Voices on the Future of the Planet (Heritage House \$25.00) edited by Todd E. MacLean

Birth of a Bridge (Talonbooks \$16.95) by Maylis De Kerangal

The Door is Open: Memoir of a Soup Kitchen Volunteer (Anvil Press \$16) by Bart Campbell

Down To Earth: Cold Climate Gardens & their Keepers (Oolichan \$29.95) by Helen McAllister and Jennifer Heath

BC Probate Kit: Everything you need to probate or administer an estate (Self-Counsel Press \$39.95) by Mary-Jane Wilson

Dipnetting with Dad (Caitlin Press \$16.95) by Willie Sellars

French Canadians, Furs, & Indigenous Women in the Making of the Pacific Northwest (UBC Press \$39.95) by Jean Barman

The Joy of Missing Out: Finding Balance in a Wired World (New Society Publishers \$17.95) by Christina Crook

* The current topselling titles from major BC publishing companies, in no particular order.

BOOKWORLD

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Off-the-continental breakfasts

Susan Musgrave adds a cookbook to her literary menu.

BY KEVEN DREWS

usan Musgrave has veered away from everything safe in her life. Not surprisingly, as the proprietor of Copper Beech House, a seven-sided bed 'n' breakfast on Haida Gwaii, she has taken an unconventional path.

From her home on the Sangan River in the community of Masset, the poet, editor, novelist, critic, essayist and humourist has mix-mastered literary and food ingredients for A Taste of Haida Gwaii: Food Gathering and Feasting at the Edge of the World (Whitecap Books \$34.95).

Recipes include Shipwrecked Chicken Wings and Rustled Beef By Gaslight, as well as the steps for baking her special sourdough. And, of course, there have to be stories, such as the time a local fisherman offered an exotic dancer 50 pounds of shrimp to spend the night with him.

Musgrave has long embodied the maverick West Coast writer more attuned to Haight-Ashbury than Yonge and Bloor, and her Copper Beech House operation runs trueto-form.

"Our mistakes make the best stories," she says, "and that's why we should not think of them as failures."

Susan Musgrave dropped out of high school and ran away from home at the age of 14. She married a criminal lawyer in the mid-1970s only to run off to Mexico a few years later with one of his clients, a man who was accused but acquitted of smuggling drugs.

Next she fell in love and married convicted bank robber Stephen Reid. She resurrected him by helping him to become an author, only to have him sent back to prison after his failed 1999 heist, car chase and shootout in Victoria. They have remained married.

Beech House. A former residence of a fishing cannery manager, it was moved to its current location in the early

Inside the bed 'n' breakfast, a glass curio cabinet displays soapstone geese, an ivory tusk, a rodent skull and a plastic

Covering the walls are the works of Haida artists, an African penis gourd, antique fishing rods and a sardine can depicting The Last Supper.

Filling the shelves are the books of David Suzuki. Margaret Atwood, Graeme Gibson, Douglas Coupland and William Gibson, all guests of Copper Beech House.

"I can't say I was cut out to be an innkeeper," says Musgrave. "I feel uncomfortable most of the time, charging people for a place to lay their head."

Musgrave's father would chide her growing up, saying, "You're so useless you can't boil an egg" every time she began to prepare a meal as a child. She has proved him wrong.

"At Copper Beech House breakfast is often a leisurely all-morning-long event," she writes. "If there are more than four guests we don't set the table—everyone sits in the living room with a plate on their lap. The informality leads to wonderful stimulating conversations and lets our guests get to know one another without having to worry about which knife or fork to use, or if they spilled stewed rhubarb on the white tablecloth.

"We serve what I have humorously taken to calling an Off-the-Continental Breakfast (Haida Gwaii is about 100 km (60 miles) off the coast of Canada, as Islanders like to say when they refer to mainland British Columbia) which includes many kinds of coffee, every kind of tea, orange juice laced with elderflower cordial, fresh fruits (including local wild berries, when in season), homemade granola, yoghurt and Susan's 3-day Sourdough Bread... Guests usually go for the bread, partly because it

takes me so long to make they would

feel guilty if they didn't eat it, es-

pecially after I have reminded



#TRASHTALK

MOVING TOWARD A ZERO-WASTE WORLD

TOP TO

TYPES OF HUMAN
GARBAGE FOUND IN
THE OCEAN

70%

of garbage in landfills could have been recycled or reused.

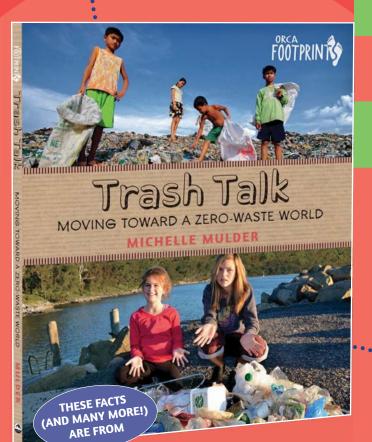
CIGARETTES
FOOD WRAPPERS
LIDS
TABLE SETTINGS
PLASTIC BOTTLES
PLASTIC BAGS
GLASS BOTTLES
POP OR BEER CANS
STRAWS OR STIRSTICKS
ROPE

WHAT ABOUT K-CUPS?
These single-use coffee capsules generate

966 million

pounds of waste each year.





Trash Talk

Moving Toward a Zero-Waste World

By Michelle Mulder

WITH TRASH TALK AUTHOR MICHELLE MULDER

Where do you get your writing inspiration?

From things I'm passionate about—bicycles, water and the environment.

How has writing this book inspired your family to move toward zero-waste?

First, I got rid of our garbage cans.
I also started a Repair Café in my
hometown so that people can learn
how to fix small household items
instead of tossing
them into the
landfill. For our family, zero-waste
has gone from an impossible idea to
an entertaining challenge!



Around the world, people create

6 million tons
of trash every day.

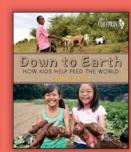
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

APRIL IS EARTH MONTH. - Challenge yourself — adopt a Zero-Waste lifestyle!

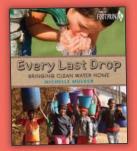
- Buy less
- Shop secondhand
- Fix it before you scrap it
- Make it yourself
- Give it a new life—if you're tired of it, pass it on!













SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS PAPER WHEN YOU'RE DONE?



PEOPLE



Stephen Collis was a spokesperson for the protestors who successfully distrupted survey work for a proposed second Kinder Morgan pipeline.

FTER KINDER MORGAN SERVED Burnaby Mountain obstructionists with a \$5.6 million dollar lawsuit, a legal defence fund was created to support the legal costs for poet and SFU professor Stephen Collis, Adam Gold, Mia Nissen and Lynne Quarmby, among others, who defended their rights to protest in hearings held last November at the Supreme Court

A lawyer for Kinder Morgan read some of Collis' writing into the public record. It was a prose piece called *The* Last Barrel of Oil on Burnaby Mountain from Collis' blog post.

"He introduced it in court," says Collis, "as evidence of my guilt as someone intending to blockade their pipeline, and encouraging others to do so as well.

"He referred to it as a 'poem by Ste-

phen Collis.' I can only assume that the literary structure of the sentences led him to re-brand it as a poem!"

It was subsequentty discovered Kinder Morgan had given the RCMP incorrect GPS coordinates so that the invisible "line" that protesters were not supposed to cross was nowhere near where it was meant to be.

The judge threw out all the charges and refused to give Kinder Morgan an extension for their drilling.

The U.S.-based Kinder Morgan cut its losses and hurriedly helicoptered out all its exploratory drilling equipment.

"We are at a point in history," says Collis, "when people have to stand up for what they believe, and stand up to defend their local environments, and the global environment, too."

Stephen Collis' next book will be called Reading Wordsworth in the Tar Sands, due next year.



Ralph Maud ran for the Green Party in the 1996 provincial election.

Post Maud-ern

s one of the founding English professors at Simon Fraser University in 1965, Ralph Maud became an authority on the work of Dylan Thomas, Charles Olson and the ethnographers of the Pacific Northwest. He pioneered a course in Indian Oral Tradition and mainly published books with Talonbooks in Vancouver. Also a provocative pamphleteer, he was born in 1928 and died in late 2014. For more info, visit ABCBookWorld.

Bullfrog legs

biology, Michelle Nelson started "homesteading" in a one-bedroom East Vancouver apartment.

Five years later she wrote The Urban Homesteading Cookbook: Forage, Farm, Ferment and Feast for a Better World (D&M \$26.95) inspired by her experiences on Bowen Island where she and her "partner in crazy awesomeness," shark biologist Christopher Mull, have a tiny cottage and land they share with chickens, quail, turkeys, geese, rabbits and goats.

With photos by **Alison Page**, Nelson's cookbook has seventy recipes that include sesame panko-crusted invasive bullfrog legs, seaweed kimchi, rabbit pâté with wild chanterelles, roasted Japanese knotweed panna cotta and dark and stormy chocolate cupcakes with cricket flour.

Nelson also writes about foraging wild urban edibles, eating invasive species, keeping micro-livestock, bees and crickets, growing vegetables in pots, small-space aquaponics, preserving meats and produce, making cheese and slow-fermenting sourdough, beer, kombucha, kefir and pickles. 978-1-77162-081-9



Green boats

EN VAN DRIMMELEN OF VICTORIA COowns a small but very robust sailboat (a Nonsuch, originally designed for Great Lakes sailing) as well as an inflatable Zodiac and both a single and a collapsible double kayak.

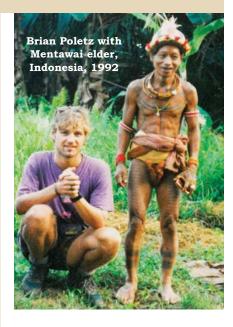
Having worked as a wildlife biologist for about 40 years and an environmental lawyer for almost 20 years, van Drimmelen has written **Greening your Boat** (Self-Counsel \$12.95) in which he outlines how boats can be maintained to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Safe and affordable practices include

finding alternatives for the many chemicals and solvents required for upkeep.

Except for kayaking down two rivers in Laos, nearly all his boating has been West Coastal.

978-1-77040-206-5



Travel far, travel near

ECENTLY BRIAN POLETZ RODE the entire length of Laos on a bicycle. Back in 2004 he cycled the spine of the Canadian Rockies via the Bow Valley

In 1991 he trekked through the Himalayas with no guides, no Sherpas, nearing the peak of Kangchenjunga. In 2000, he hung out with the remote Kogi tribe of Northern Colombia; having visited the more inaccessible Mentawai of Siberut Island in Indonesia in 1992. Those are just a few of his adventures.

In his memoir, The Spaces in Between - Stories of Discovery (Nomadic Poletz Publishing \$19.95), Poletz recounts globe-cycling experiences, as well as his childhood in rural Saskatchewan, having visited six continents and travelled through more than 50

Compassionate and philosophical, Poletz is not a self-fixated journalist glorifying his adventures; instead he is consistently concerned with describing the lives and characters he meets, whether he's visiting a dangerous paradise in Colombia or evading the amorous intentions of a beautiful and muscular olive farmer in Crete named Gaia or realizing the extent to which immigrants are stifled in Switzerland. His final story about being duped in Istanbul even expresses sympathy for the team of extortionists who lured him into a nightclub. 978-0-9936731-0-8



WHEREAS JAYNE SEAGRAVE'S CAMPING WITH Kids: The Best Family Campgrounds in British Columbia and Alberta, published back in 2005, had only three



twenty from B.C., and it was geared towards families with children under age ten, her followup, Camping with Kids in the West Jayne Seagrave (Heritage \$19.95)

campgrounds from

Alberta and about

ten years later, features 12 Alberta campgrounds and new information pertaining to camping with older children—plus new website info.

Born in England in 1961, Seagrave lives in Vancouver with her husband Andrew Dewberry and sons Jack and **Sam**. She holds a Ph.D. in criminology. Consequently she first wrote Introduction to Policing in Canada (Prentice Hall, 1997). 9781772030402

NCE UPON A MORE HOMOPHOBIC time, Raziel Reid's debut novel about a gay teenage murder would never have been published.

These days, at age 24, the Xtra West columnist has won a Governor-General's Award in the children's literature category and he's been informed When **Everything Feels Like the Movies** (Arsenal Pulp \$15.95) has been selected as one of five nominated titles for CBC Radio's Canada Reads 2015 competition.

When Everything Feels Like the Movies was inspired by a real-life killing in a California high school. In 2008, a 15-year-old gay student named Larry King asked 14-year-old Brandon Mc-Inerney to be his Valentine in front of a bunch of jocks. A few days later, McInerney brought a .22 rifle to school and shot King twice in the head.

Reid can still recall learning about the California tragedy as a high school senior at home, watching a tearful Ellen DeGeneres plead for tolerance in its aftermath. Reid has extrapolated from this news story to fashion an edgy and non-sugarcoated novel, full of gender-bending teen glamour, mischief and melodrama.

When Everything Feels Like the Movies is original because Reid has likened high school to a film set. The "Movie Stars" are the ones everyone wants to be with; the "Crew" consists of people making things happen; the "Extras" fill empty spaces.

The openly gay protagonist Jude Rothesay doesn't fit into any of the groups. Creative and rude, Jude

Raziel Reid's GG-Award winning novel has been criticized as being too explicit for youth; but the anti-censorship lobby will prevail.

"smells like Chanel Mademoiselle and reads Old Hollywood star biographies like gospel; he doesn't have the easiest path to travel in life, but somehow he paves his own yellow brick road and wishes we could join him over the rainbow."

Jude doesn't get invited to the cool parties and people are not hoping to have him appear on their Facebook pages. But as a self-professed "flamer," he's not about to be sidelined from the action. In fact, Jude is determined to get Luke Morris to say yes to the Valentine's Day dance. It's better to flame out than fade away.

"Every young gay guy I know wants to be famous," Reid told Pat Johnson

of Xtra West in an interview, "or thinks they are famous. It's this weird thing; it's like a cultural disease, almost, that we all have. Social media amplifies it, but I feel like it's rooted in insecurity.

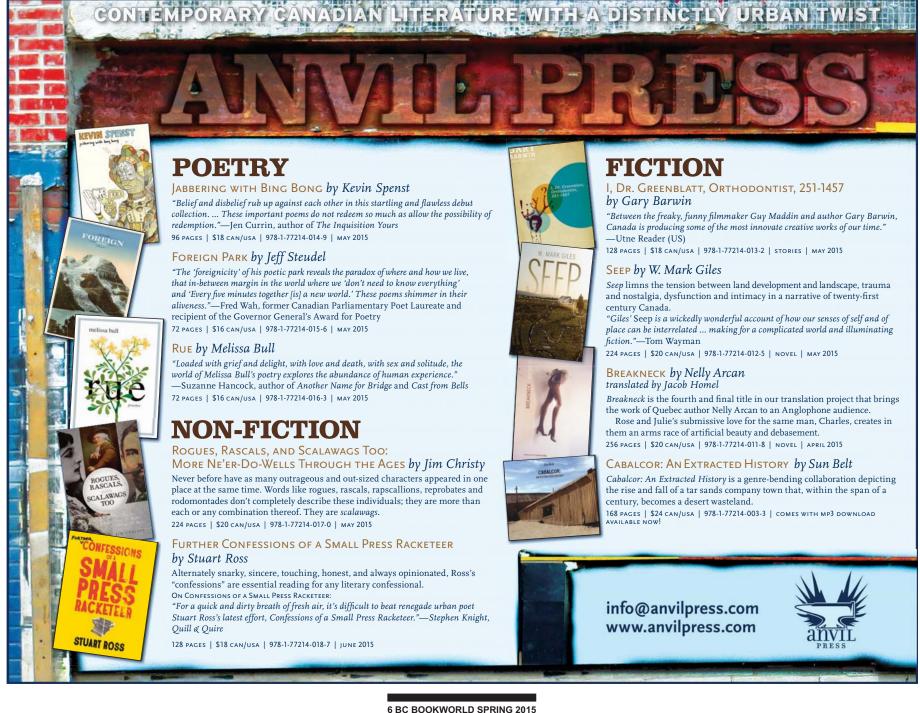
"A lot of gay people were not very popular in high school, and picked on, and so they dream of sort of showing everyone that they are special. That was certainly Jude's goal—just prove all of his haters wrong."

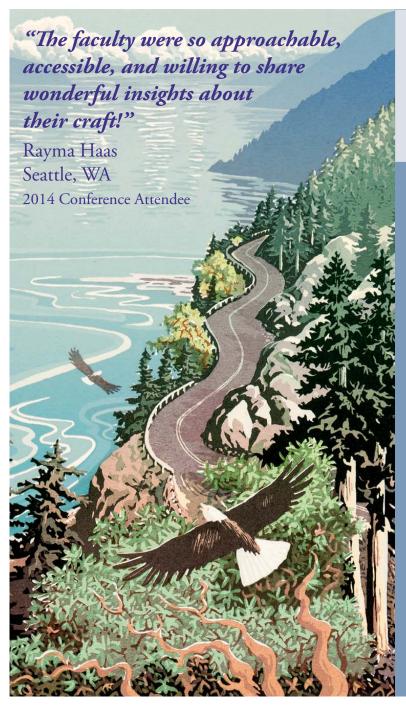
Having graduated from the New York Film Academy, Reid has performed off-Broadway, worked as a go-go dancer, and written and acted in the short film called End Point, but he claims he was shy in high school and Jude is not a self-portrait.

A self-described "anti-social columnist, anti-fur fag" and creator of the pop culture blog *Blitz & Shitz* on DailyXtra. com, Raziel Reid grew up in Winnipeg and has relocated to Vancouver.

His winning novel is anything but childish, but he smartly opted to have his story submitted as a Young Adult novel in the 2014 Governor General's competition—where it obviously stood

Other finalists for CBC Radio's Canada Reads 2015 competition—themed as "Books That Break Barriers."—are And the Birds Rained Down by Jocelyne Saucier (translated by Rhonda **Mullins**); The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King; Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes by Kamal Al-Solaylee; and Ru by Kim Thúy (translated by Sheila Fischman). Reid's book's representative for the panel debates is Elaine "Lainey" Lui, co-host of CTV's The 5 978-1-55152-574-7







Inspiration into Action

Friday and Saturday

June 26 & 27, 2015

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Betsy Amster Philip Athans Carol Cassella Kerry Colburn Anne Depue Steven Galloway Elizabeth George Sam Green Lee Gulyas Denise Jolly Stephanie Kallos William Kenower Elizabeth Kracht Erik Larson **Robert Lashley** Kate Lebo Brenda Miller Elissa Washuta Molly Wizenberg

www.chuckanutwritersconference.com







Left: Original serigraph titled "Along Chuckanut Drive" by Nancy McDonnell Spaulding, commissioned by Chuckanut Bay Gallery, www.chuckanutbaygallery.com

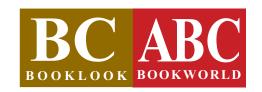
BCBookLook & ABCBookWorld had over

6,000,000

page views in 2014.

Six Million.

www.bcbooklook.com • www.abcbookworld.com





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Celebrating 47 Years of Publishing in Canada



Knitting Stories

Personal Essays and Seven Coast Salish-inspired Knitting Patterns

Sylvia Olsen

Master storyteller and expert knitter Sylvia Olsen's essay collection is both personal and political, historical and practical. Includes seven stunning Coast Salishinspired knitting patterns.

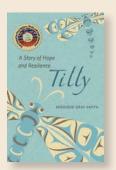
NON-FICTION/ESSAYS 978-1-55039-232-6 • \$28.95 Also available as an ebook



The Lost Diary
Julie White

In the fourth Hillcroft Farm novel, Julie White skillfully intertwines a tale from the early days of women in international competition with Faye's journey back to the show ring after a nasty accident. Gripping!

Juvenile Fiction • Ages 8–12 978-1-55039-234-0 • \$9.95 Also available as an ebook



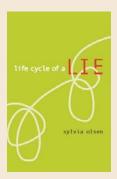
Tilly

A Story of Hope and Resilience
Monique Gray Smith

A powerful, loosely autobiographical story of a young Indigenous woman coming of age in Canada in the 1980s. Gray Smith illuminates her people's history—forced displacement, residential schools, tuberculosis hospitals, the Sixties Scoop—with insight and humour.

Winner of the 2014 CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature

978-1-55039-209-8 • \$19.95 Also available as an ebook



Life Cycle of a Lie Sylvia Olsen

Have you ever told a lie, then told another to cover up the first? Is failing to correct a misunderstanding lying at all? A complex novel of love, gender relations, friendship, betrayal, truth, and lies.

TEEN FICTION • Ages 12+ 978-1-55039-233-3 • \$14.95 Also available as an ebook

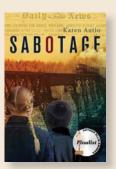


Riding Through Fire
Julie White

Faye's out horse jumping, and Kirsty's doing chores. A cattle drive seems like fun—until the wind changes. Suddenly, Kirsty and Lancelot smell smoke...

An exciting new story from the stables of Hillcroft Farm!

Juvenile Fiction • Ages 8–12 978-1-55039-199-2 • \$9.95 Also available as an ebook



Sabotage Karen Autio

German spies? Sabotage plots? Internment camps? Believe it or not, this is northwestern Ontario in 1915. The danger hits close to home for siblings Saara and John Mäki in this exciting story, the last in Autio's popular historical fiction trilogy.

☆ Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award (Nominee)

Arthur Ellis Best Juvenile/Young Adult Crime Book (Finalist)

Juvenile Fiction • Ages 8–12 978-1-55039-208-1 • \$10.95 Also available as an ebook



Shack Island Summer Penny Chamberlain

It's the summer of 1969, the summer of flower children and the first moon landing. 12-year-old Pepper knows she's adopted and decides this summer will be an excellent time to find out who her birth family is, along with exploring ESP, dreams, friendship and infatuation.

JUVENILE FICTION • Ages 9–13 978-1-55039-175-6 • \$10.95 Also available as an ebook



Under the Wire
Julie White

Reid Widmark is at the gate...

At 16, Reid Widmark is on his way to becoming a professional jockey. Then his mother takes a fall—and suddenly, so does his future. How can he prove that he's got what it takes to win?

Juvenile Fiction • Ages 10–14 978-1-55039-198-5 • \$9.95 Also available as an ebook



Prove It, Josh Jenny Watson

Josh is 11, dyslexic, and suffering at his new school on Vancouver Island. Sailing is his escape, until he's goaded into a bet: lose a sailing race and he reads aloud on Literacy Day!

Silver Birch Express Award (Nominee)

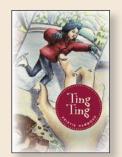
Juvenile Fiction • Ages 8–12 978-1-55039-211-1 \$9.95 Also available as an ebook



The Moment
Kristie Hammond

When a devastating train accident results in the loss of his leg, James cannot imagine ever leading a 'normal' life again. As James struggles to adapt to his new life, he's helped by true friends he didn't know he had.

JUVENILE FICTION • Ages 8–12 978-1-55039-235-7 • \$9.95 Also available as an ebook

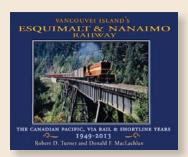


Ting Ting Kristie Hammond

Ting is a happy 8-year-old in China when Tiananmen Square forces her family to a new life in faraway Vancouver, Canada. Suddenly everything is strange and difficult. What will it take for Ting to belong?

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (Honor Title)

Juvenile Fiction • Ages 8–12 978-1-55039-210-4 • \$9.95 Also available as an ebook



Vancouver Island's Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway

The CPR Via Rail and Shortline Years, 1949–2013

Robert D. Turner & Donald F. MacLachlan

ISBN 978-1-55039-212-8 softcover • \$39.95

978-1-55039-213-5 hardcover • \$49.95

11 x 9 • 324 pages • 475+ photos

"Sing sweet... These brown skin confessions."

CHELENE KNIGHT



Chelene Knight has been writing in secret since she was a child. "As a young mixed-race woman, I've always struggled with identity," she says. "I am still trying to find my voice."

Having graduated from The Writer's Studio at SFU, the Vancouver-born poet has now released her first book, Braided Skin (Mother Tongue \$18.95), largely emanating from experiences arising from her mixed ethnicity, poverty, urban upbringing and youthful dreams.

"Growing up with only my mother's side of the family [African American] and never being exposed to any of the cultural intricacies of my father's East Indian-Ugandan heritage, left a gaping hole in my chest I've never been able to fill.

"As a young parent, how do I hand over answers to probing questions of ethnicity, background, and history, when I myself didn't even have them? This is the question that the poems in Braided Skin finally answer."

Knight's mother is African American. Her father and his family were victims of the Asian expulsion from Uganda that took place in the 1970s when President Idi Amin led a campaign of "de-Indianization," in essence a brutal ethnic cleansing of Uganda's Indian minority.

"So many Canadian mixed-race women struggle with finding a sense of belonging within themselves, as well as within their own families and even communities," she says. "I have spent a good chunk of my life feeling pressured to convince strangers of my ethnicity due to not physically fitting into any mold made by society's preconceived ideal.

"I think when you come from two different cultures, and are denied one half, you spend the majority of your time questioning everything in your life, from parenting to education, careers to social groups, and even dating and marriage."

Knight's title poem 'Braided Skin' uses the analogy of braiding—the concept of entwining—to reflect racial tensions and ambiguities, always with the promise or threat of unravelling.

"In some pieces in the book, I use a character's voice as narrator, and even though a particular poem may not be about me, I'm always sure to remove my mask and question if this is where I'm supposed to be."

Wayde Compton, director of The Writer's Studio, notes Knight's poetry does "not let tribulation define the journey, though it's there." Instead there is a consistent quality of dance and laughter through the book.

A quote from Jeanette Winterson is prominent on Knight's website: "A tough life needs a tough languageand that is what poetry is. That's what literature offers—a language powerful enough to say how it is. It isn't a hiding place. It is a finding place."

A member of the editorial board of Room, Knight has been published in Sassafras Literary Magazine, Room, emerge 2013 and Raven Chronicles. She says, "The poems in this collection do address race directly and sometimes indirectly, but it's more than that. It's about realizing that I can have a variety of voices, and they are all indeed genuinely mine.

"I speak through music, erasure, story and rant. I don't have to pick a side. I wrote these poems for the women struggling with a sense of belonging, be it race-related or not. Everyone wants a place to feel content.

"... It's about the unmapped journey through city and then later, through self. Where one ends up is only the beginning."

> ... Sing sweet. Brown skin, black skin, caramel-dipped skin, leathery-sunburnt skin, ceases-to-remember skin, like the war-torn-country skin, she breathes skin.

— 'In the Green Room,' from Braided Skin

These days Chelene Knight stands strong in her chosen position as a hardworking single parent. Her work in progress, Dear Current Occupant, is a collection of prose poems and letters written in the voice of a young woman speaking to the horrors, sadness and pleasures that took place in the over 20 homes she lived in as a child.

feature review

The Jaguar's Children by John Vaillant (Knopf Canada \$29.95)

HE GREAT 19TH CENtury writers of social realism—**Dickens**, Hugo, Balzac, Tol**stoy**—understood that some social, economic and political issues are so overwhelming and so profoundly disturbing to their own culture that they can only be portrayed effectively in fiction.

In his first novel, The Jaguar's Children, Vancouverbased journalist John Vaillant follows a trail broken by the masters to dramatize an economically and politically challenging—and tragic—social crisis facing North America today.

The border between the United States and Mexico is more than a muddy river, a line in the dust or miles of chain-link fence enhanced with razor wire, cameras and thermal sensors. It is the border between hope and despair, between a failing state and the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth.

Every day thousands of people from Mexico and other marginalized Central American countries risk their lives to cross that border, seeking a better life. Many are interdicted by U.S. Immigration and border patrols, la migra, and repatriated. Others, not so lucky, find only miserable deaths, suffocated in stifling, hidden compartments in vehicles or exhausted and dehydrated by walking through

One character in The Jaguar's Children grimly observes that thousands of desiccated bodies of men, women and children are scattered along invisible trails of tears.

Vaillant's articles have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The* Atlantic, National Geographic and The Walrus and he is the author of the multi-awardwinning non-fiction book, The Golden Spruce (Vintage 2006). It was a year in Oaxaca, Mexico that sharpened his awareness of the illegal economic migration issue by

letting him see it from the other side of the border. He might have fallen back on well-honed journalistic skills to write about it. If he had, he might have produced something like

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's Gulag Archipelago, a factual catalogue of human suffering so vast and unrelenting it defeats its purpose by rendering readers emotionally numb.

Instead, Vaillant dramatizes the story of Hector, one young man making his desperate bid to reach el Norte, the land of promise. The 1983

John Vaillant can easily be described as one of the rising stars of British Columbia literature —if not *the* rising star. IN MEXICO film El Norte, about a Guatemalan brother and sister

trying to get to the U.S., has addressed the same issues but it can't match The Jaguar's Children for desperation and claustrophobic horror worthy of Edgar Allan Poe.

Welded into the empty tank of a water-hauler, Hector, his boyhood friend Cesar, and a dozen other migrants are abandoned in the desert by venal 'coyote' guides when the

truck breaks down. As the air sours with carbon dioxide and bottled water runs out, Hector clings to a pipe that admits a small current of fresh air.

Hector also sends text messages, like SOS signals from a sinking ship, to AnniMac, a contact he finds on the injured Cesar's cell phone. Using the somewhat over-extended

device of these lengthy texts, : short life story into a device whose batteries are dying as slowly and surely as everyone in the tank.

From files stored on the phone, Hector discovers that Cesar, formerly the token Zapotec researcher for the biotech company SuperMaize, is on the run from corporate and government interests promoting genetically modified corn that will irrevocably destroy the bedrock cycle of Mexican culture by using the lure of high-yield profits to displace traditional maize.

While the GM food con-Vaillant has Hector narrate his : spiracy lends **Ludlum**-like urgency to the plot, it's Hector's account of his family, the lives of his parents and grandparents, and their struggle as indigenous people on the bottom rung of Mexican society, that keeps the pages turning.

Stranded and abandoned by people

smugglers, Hector sends SOS-like

cell phone messages to a stranger.

THIRTY YEARS AGO, REVISIONIST politically-correct critics would have attacked Vaillant with shrill accusations of 'appropriation of cultural voice,' as they delighted in doing to books like Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea (Nobel Prize winner) and Pearl S.

Buck's The Good Earth. For good measure, such critics attacked fictional books about First Nations' characters by B.C. authors Anne Cameron

FICTION

and W.P. Kinsella. Fortunately most of these twits clammed up when their self-righteous moral stance obliged them to argue that Shakespeare shouldn't have written Hamlet because he wasn't Danish or Macbeth be-

cause he wasn'ae a Scot. Writers not only have the right to use their imaginations; they have an obligation to tell stories that need to be told using whatever voice, journalistic or fictional, that makes them most likely to be

I don't usually read novels at one sitting; this one I did.

9780307397164

John Moore writes on a regular basis for this publication from Garibaldi Highlands.

10 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2015



Talonbooks Spring 2015



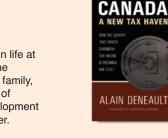
As Always Memoir of a Life in Writing

Madeleine Gagnon

Translated by Phyllis Aronoff & Howard Scott

One of Canada's greatest literary figures reflects on life at the centre of Quebec literary arts. Re-examining the influences of her early life in a large, rural Catholic family, Madeleine Gagnon not only explores her rejection of unexamined values as part of her intellectual development but also her refusal to be categorized by her gender.

\$24.95 / 336 pp / Biography & Autobiography 978-0-88922-896-2 / ebook 978-0-88922-897-9

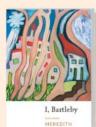


Canada: A New Tax Haven How the Country That Shaped Caribbean Tax Havens Is Becoming One Itself

Alain Deneault

The Caribbean islands became jurisdictions of banking and tax leniency in the last half of the twentieth century under the guidance of Canadian financiers. Now government policy to increase the international "competitiveness" of Canadian companies encourages multinationals to relocate to Canada as if it were Barbados or Belize. This book traces the history and examines the implications of this development.

\$29.95 / 400 pp / Business & Economics 978-0-88922-836-8 / ebook / 978-0-88922-837-5



I, Bartleby

Meredith Quartermain

In these quirky, imaginative stories about writing and writers, Bartleby, the scrivener (a.k.a. Quartermain), goes her stubborn way haunted by Pauline Johnson, Malcolm Lowry, Robin Blaser, Daphne Marlatt, and other forebears. Who is writing whom, these stories ask in their musing reflections—the writer or the written? The thinker or the alphabet? The calligrapher or the pictograms hidden in her Chinese characters?

\$14.95 / 112 pp / Fiction: Short Stories 978-0-88922-918-1 / ebook / 978-0-88922-919-8



The Keeper's Daughter

Jean-François Caron

Translated by W. Donald Wilson

Young Dorothea is appointed by the tourist bureau to direct a documentary film re-enacting life at a lighthouse off Quebec's North Shore in the 1940s and 50s. The problem is that most of the memories of Rose Brouillard, the interview subject, are invented, not real. But, really, who cares whether it's true? What matters here are the stories we tell.

\$14.95 / 160 pp / Fiction 978-0-88922-920-4 / ebook / 978-0-88922-921-1



Un/inhabited

Jordan Abel

Un/inhabited questions the use of politically or racially charged language in 91 pulp western novels found on Project Gutenberg. Using a range of techniques, Abel investigates the complex relationship between language and land, including the ways that use and ownership affect both. This art book presents Abel's practice for the first time in a visual context.

\$24.95 / 240 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-922-8



Get Me Out of Here

Sachiko Murakami

Why is it so difficult to stay present in the moment? Murakami's poems, written in response to her open call on the Internet, search airport departures and arrivals for a handhold on the fleeting present. Working within and wriggling out of the constraint of 14 lines, the poems explore how to stay when the mind is begging to leave.

\$16.95 / 80 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-925-9



Limbinal

Oana Avasilichioaei

Here, linguistic limbs fold and migrate, a distant border politicks and trips over the horizon, a river overflows, floods, palimpsests another river, Arendt's responsibility touches Deleuze's fold, the body, changeable, restless, searches for resonances. And new translations of Paul Celan's Romanian poems become a generative field of language that sprout other limbs and broach other thresholds.

\$19.95 / 128 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-924-2



The Hatch

Colin Browne

Colin Browne's new collection, *The Hatch*, extends his formal engagement with the margins of new documentary. Browne's poems have regularly addressed landscape and the intersections of personal and public history; in *The Hatch* there is a rhythmic and political urgency in which the exchange of forms is lightning quick.

\$18.95 / 176 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-938-9



page as bone - ink as blood

Jonina Kirton

Delicate and dark, Métis/Icelandic poet Jonina Kirton's debut collection explores the unfurling of a woman of 'mixed blood who, now approaching sixty years old, looks back on pivotal events in her life. page as bone – ink as blood addresses the effects of childhood abuse, sexuality, marriage, ancestry, spirituality, and death.

"Jónína Kirton's memoir in verse could be an epic novel, a haunting ballad, a film noir." — Betsy Warland

\$16.95 / 96 pp / Poetry / 978-0-88922-923-5



Dead Metaphor

Three Plays

George F. Walker

Canada's top playwright sears the page with three new darkly comic plays, each addressing in different ways a modern world of ambiguous morals and corruption: *Dead Metaphor*; *The Burden of Self Awareness*; and *The Ravine*.

"It's vintage Walker: funny, violent, compassionate and thought-provoking." – *Toronto Star*

\$19.95 / 208 pp / Drama 978-0-88922-928-0 / ebook / 978-0-88922-929-7



Odd Ducks

Bryden MacDonald

Welcome to the small town of Tartan Cross, where skeletons rattle in closets with the intensity of a marching band. Bryden MacDonald's smart new comedy *Odd Ducks* tells the story of four forty-something eccentrics struggling to get out of their own way, trying to move on, all the while inventing drama with searing sarcasm to keep things light.

\$16.95 / 96 pp / Drama 978-0-88922-934-1 / ebook / 978-0-88922-935-8



Shoplifters

Morris Panych

Alma's a career shoplifter who prefers the "five-finger discount" over some lousy seniors' deal, but her life of petty crime is halted suddenly by an overzealous rookie security guard. With its cast of oddball characters, Panych's new comedy offers biting observations about society's haves and have-nots – and how much they might actually have in common.

\$17.95 / 128 pp / Drama 978-0-88922-926-6 / ebook / 978-0-88922-927-3



The St. Leonard Chronicles

Steve Galluccio

From the award-winning author of runaway hits *Mambo Italiano* and *In Piazza San Domenico* comes a saucy, delicious new comedy. When a young Italian couple announces they are moving to the Anglo suburbs, it's like they've committed a mortal sin against their traditional relatives. Ultimately floodgates open to other unspoken desires and revelations, turning conservative St. Leonard upside down.

\$16.95 / 96 pp / Drama 978-0-88922-930-3 / ebook / 978-0-88922-931-0



Winners and Losers

Marcus Youssef € James Long

Two friends pass the time together playing a made-up game in which they name people, places, or things and debate whether they are successful or not; in other words, winners or losers. Each friend seeks to defeat the other, and because one of these men grew up economically privileged, and the other did not, the competition very quickly adds up.

\$16.95 / 96 pp / Drama 978-0-88922-932-7 / ebook / 978-0-88922-933-4



review

Savour: The Obsessions of a **Murderer by Jackie Bateman** (Anvil Press \$20.00)

T SIXTEEN, LIZZY HAS been through a lot. When she was twelve, her mother disappeared and no one else wanted Lizzy. At thirteen, she took off for London with her boyfriend, leaving Dalbegie, Scotland. Nobody reported her

On the streets of London, Lizzy knows how to handle herself and keeps a close eye on her less streetwise friend, Natalie, as they work their Soho fruit stalls.

One of the nasty people in Dalbegie has followed Lizzy to London. Both protector and predator, Oliver is a sociopathic serial killer who is obsessed with Lizzy as he had been obsessed with her mother.

That's the setup for Jackie Bateman's Savour: The Obsessions of a Murderer, Bateman's follow-up to Nondescript Rambunctious (Anvil, 2011), Book One in her Lizzy *Trilogy*. The first novel won the SFU Writer's Studio First Book Competition.

Both novels explore sociopathic depravity and contemporary society's desensitization to violence.

With time and wealth on :



his hands, Oliver is a stalker who organizes "viewings" for a select group of psychopaths, including Helen, who knew Oliver from Dalbegie. They both worked at, of all things, a cat rescue facility. Helen is about to get a surprise from Steve, an amiable loser capable of murder.



IN SAVOUR, RANK-SMELLING ALLEYS are festooned with human waste and vomit. We visit hovels where the city's castaway derelicts live. Worse, we are dragged into Helens and Oliver's minds.

"I wanted to make Oliver .

complex in that he likes order and control," says Bateman. "He feels that he owns Lizzy, has power over her, and doesn't want anyone else to have her. He battles with this

paradox where he wants to kill : her—but at the same time, to protect her.

"Oliver likes the feeling he gets from killing and that kind of person is the worst kind, because they never get found."

Such nefariousness is not



entirely fanciful. When Bateman lived in Edinburgh, there was an extremely violent incident in the flat below her.

"When the police came," she recalls, "they asked if

I was okay and what I was doing there. I didn't know what they meant—but they said if I knew who else was living in my street, I would be packing up and moving. That stuck with me. Do you really know your neighbours?"

Because Savour deals with

such a young protagonist and there is a surprising lack of any sexual references-given its dark subject matter—this book could have been aimed at a youth market, but Bateman says it's definitely adult fiction. "It's a touch too dark and full of swearing to be categorized as YA," she says, "although I can see older teenagers enjoying my novels because of Lizzy.

"Something terrible happening in life can result in devastating consequences. We've all seen it happen to someone we know, someone's daughter, to a friend—or to ourselves. It resonates no matter how old we are."

As with its predecessor, Savour comfortably slips between four narrators, Lizzy, Helen, Steve and Oliver, but only Oliver speaks out in the first person. We begin to observe Lizzy, for example, from his eyes. We're forced into his head.

The final installment of the trilogy, Straight Circles, could be available next year. Meanwhile her entire trilogy will be translated and published in the Netherlands and France later this year. 978-1-77214-000-2

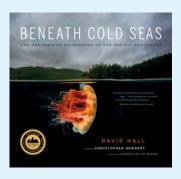
Cherie Thiessen regularly reviews fiction from Pender Island.





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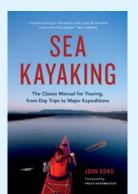
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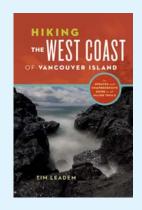
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review

FICTION

TWO GENTLEMEN OF KELOWNA

Aaron Bushkowsky's Bard send-up is brilliant and brash

by fires that force evacua-

The countryside is ravaged:

Curtains for Roy by Aaron Bushkowsky (Cormorant Books \$21)

NYONE WHO HAS ENjoyed the wisecracking tomfoolery of Steve Coogan and his fellow impressionist Rob Brydon as unlikely restaurant critics in their buddy/ road movies The Trip (in northern England) and The Trip to Italy will gobble up the banter in Aaron Bushkowsky's continuously clever **Curtains** for Roy.

Curtains for Roy starts a bit like Withnail & I Go To The Okanagan except the dissing duo are older, semi-successful theatre types on a wine tour. Alex, a playwright with writer's block, has agreed to chaperone his old friend, Roy, a theatre director who is dying of lung cancer, on a palliative adventure.

After much imbibing and self-loathing, trading barbs and uncomfortable truths, Roy is called upon to save a crumbling production of A Midsummer's Night Dream for tions in the Okanagan during rehearsals—events that occurred in 2003 when Vancouver's Bard on the Beach generated a satellite project called Bard in the Vineyard, giving rise to this novel. In Bushkowsky's darkly comic Curtains for Roy the show is bankrolled by a biker-turnedvintner who has insisted his current squeeze must have a leading role. The intimacy between Roy

and Alex resembles the camaraderie that Coogan and Brydon (who aren't close friends in real life) provide in their movies. Roy and Alex are bonded by their love of theatre and a stabbingly severe frankness that reassures both parties they can be original. For good measure, Bushkowsky adds the fact that Alex once saved Roy's life when they were kids.

Nobody can dish out the truth like a close friend. It's a service, of sorts. If you have a friend tear you apart, it spares you the misery of doing it to yourself. Along the way Bush-

even know what it is. So they wander down to the winery jingling their car keys, hoping we'll give them a brief glimpse kowsky even takes of glory, a blink of insight, so their tvs don't hurt their eyes at himself. A so much late at night." detested the-Double ouch. atre critic [is As the story unfolds, and there any other the drama of the upcoming kind?] attacks production becomes more imthe playwright portant than the duo's friend-Alex, saying, ship, Bushkowsky proceeds "Instead of to generate more plot-driven conflict you entertainment.

for Outstanding Original Script.

Will Alex have a tryst with one of three attractive women who have crossed his path? Will Roy live to see opening

nobody will notice how empty

your stories are... The sad

truth is you can't create mean-

ingful relationships if you

don't know how to have them

A jaundiced but talented

"Even if we bring a little

actor offers this disturbing

rant about commercial thes-

more meaning, it doesn't mean

enough. People still go home

after the shows and they ruin

their lives with indifference

and boredom. We're just a

ripple in the ocean of who-

gives-a-shit. We're singing

cartoon frogs in a cartoon that

nobody sees... We're their con-

cept of high art, so they don't

feel guilty about buying their

them? Old English with physi-

cal comedy. How much do

they understand? How much

do they really care?... They

desperately want some poetry

in their lives, but they don't

"What's Shakespeare to

next RV or SUV...

vourself."

pianism.

Ouch.

Will the unwanted actress rise to the occasion? Or will it all crash and burn-figuratively or literally?



THERE WAS TIME IN THIS FAIR LAND when the railroads used to run.... when great fiction from small but enduring imprint in Western Canada could be admired and widely discussed.

Curtains for Roy is perfect grist for a movie. It is a brilliant comedy of manners that deserves to be touted as a generational follow-up to **Douglas Coupland**'s Generation X.

But these days Canada's fiction playing field is slanted increasingly back towards

The likes of Bushkowsky and Hekkanen might as well be published from Vladivo-



Fleeing the Promise of the 21st Century, a painting by Ernest Hekkanen

KAFKA GOES TO MANNING PARK

Ernest Hekkanen's frightening sojourn

by Ernest Hekkanen (New Orphic Publishers \$18)

INCENT VAN GOGH SOLD only one painting in his lifetime—to his long-suffering brother who was the only person who consistently loved him and supported his work. After his death, the artwork of van Gogh has generated billions of dollars for commercial enterprises around the world, such as the ever-popular van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, and the collective value of his separate paintings made over a ten-year period is beyond calculation.

The disturbing Kafka-esque genius apparent in Ernest Hekkanen's novella I'm Not You brings to mind van Gogh's fate.

Like van Gogh, who sold one painting, Hekkanen has only been published (twice) by one commercial press.

Is it possible that one hundred years from now people will be reading this existentialist allegory and wonder how it could have gone unrecognized during the artist's lifetime?

FOR HIS 46TH TITLE, ERNEST HEKkanen has introduced a nameless character who is discovered beaten almost to death in the woods of Manning Park. Brought to a hospital in Abbotsford, he cannot recall his name, or his past. He draws a complete blank, much to the :

consternation of the police and medical authorities. The man-who reluctantly accepts being addressed as 'Sir' in lieu of anything else-sometimes has a nagging voice in his head that questions his thinking, but he is helpless in his efforts to cooperate with other humans who are thoroughly perplexed by his amnesia.

In great pain, Sir eats again, he defecates. He is very frightened when he sees a face in the mirror. He does not recognize what everyone else insists must be his own reflection. He doesn't know himself; so he only knows that he is not other people.

Mostly he wants to get his clothes back. It is humiliating to be held prisoner in a hospital as a mere victim of circumstance. There is no indication that he has committed any wrongdoing.

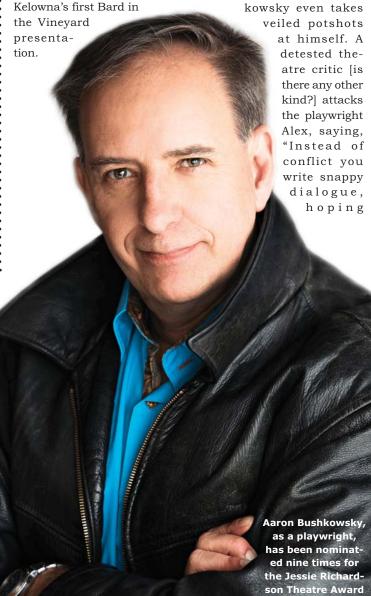
Finally he escapes down the elevator only to be dragooned by three nefarious men in a black van.

They drive him back to the woods in Manning Park. They start beating him.

The opening paragraph of *I'm Not You* is repeated.

ERNEST HEKKANEN co-manages an art gallery and publishes New Orphic Review in Nelson.

978-1-894842-24-2



13 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2015

review

Caroline Woodward reviews debut short story collections from two graduates of UBC's Creative Writing Program, both of whom set their stories in locales around the world.

Some Extremely Boring Drives by Marguerite Pigeon (NeWest \$19.95)

Y ONLY DIFFICULTY with Marguerite Pigeon's dazzling collection of fourteen stories is the title. Some Extremely Boring Drives. Yes, yes, it's hipsterironic, arch, provocative, but it's likely to do this book a disservice when it's crammed spine out onto bookstore shelves.

Conversely the stories inside all have short, bristling, interesting titles like Endurance, Fiddle, Run or The Mermaid Sings which would entice most prospective readers to reach out for it.

Pigeon's characters are movers and shakers all, nary a chaise lounge habitué watching the world go by in the lot. Endurance begins the book, about an extreme, crosscountry marathon in the Yukon. The (riveting) action is so visceral that one is practically shivering, sweating and panting by the end of it.

Then we're off to a hair salon where a cancer survivor is conversing with her hairdresser en route to a first night out to enjoy music and dancing and life among the living. Pigeon's ability to push and pull the reader into her highenergy orbit is a treat. Her pacing and language never loses momentum or tension.

In Slag, rough-housing between two teens escalates when the young woman is punched by her older and larger boyfriend. We fear for her future in Sudbury where she lives with her mother and her mother's live-in gangster partner who is also the uncle of her abusive boyfriend. I cheered as she made her escape on the 'Hound heading to Toronto. But Pigeon does not indulge anyone with tidy endings.

In Catch, we enter the . creepy night-time world of two . men who catch feral cats for . unspecified medical purposes. The dialogue is especially unnerving and powerful. "Always a step ahead," as Gerald put it. "Like Eichmann in Argentina." Gerald is the kind of guy who enjoys this work far too much. And Roger knows he needs to make an exit before the job catches and disposes of his own humanity on a daily basis.

Marguerite Pigeon's training, productivity and experience as a journalist comes to the fore as we scramble over the rocks of Newfoundland .



EXTREMELY BORING, THEY'RE NOT

Introducing Marguerite Pigeon (above) & Julia Leggett (below)



in Fiddle. What to do with a reluctant, once-celebrated, now-disgraced fiddle player who wants to take the cameraman and the journalist out in his boat?

We are taken to the streets of Mexico in That Obscure Desire and to Spain in Torera, where twists and turns and a sly sense of humour abound. Here's our intrepid traveller on the beach in Spain: "Sheri is quite tipsy and has some trouble on the lava-like rocks. She generally embraces her drinking, but the librarian in her doesn't approve of the attendant loss of focus."

Now that the reader is well and truly hooked on the stories-all gritty realism interspersed with heart-aches and belly laughs in seemingly effortless, glimmering prosealong comes Makeover to overturn expectations. Clue: a doppelganger is involved, or possibly a twin or maybe even a love-child on the loose.

The notion of shifting identities comes to the fore in the next story, Run, as well as *Backup*, where a singer chooses to hang back and take a supporting role until the day she messes with the unwritten rules. Another singer in another story, The Mermaid Sings, a Joni Mitchell tribute act, takes to the stage in a blonde wig, playing small bars across the prairies. This one would make a brilliant theatre piece or film.

Marguerite Pigeon is also :

the author of the Gerald Lampert Award-nominated book of poetry, Inventory (Anvil, 2009) and a novel, Open Pit (NeWest, 2013) that was reviewed in BC BookWorld. Her

range of subjects and characters in Some Extremely Boring Drives, and her soaring imagination throughout, is truly impressive. I now look forward to reading her previous books.

978-1-927063-75-0

N HER ELEGANTLY PRODUCED collection of eight stories, Gone South and Other Ways to Disappear, Julia Leggett reveals

to Disappear by Julia Leggett

(Mother Tongue \$19.95)

what it's like to be female in one's early twenties and thirties in this century.

In Thin, an obese young

office worker buys herbal diet pills, having thoroughly absorbed the relentless North American repugnance for overweight people. She astounds herself, and confuses her

trim, controlling BFF by shedding dozens of pounds... during one shift at work. In this deadpan, surrealist story we are quickly immersed in the savagery of office power politics and the nasty truth about some female friendships. Each

sentence sings, each word is carefully considered, polished and put in exactly the right

Perhaps Leggett's greatest gift is her ability to hook the reader with a few comfortable assumptions and then to give the tale a sly and devastating twist. For In Disguise, we follow a resolutely passive woman to Italy where she shocks herself by sidling away from her husband and his attentive co-worker to follow a handsome Italian onto a train. Along with the protagonist, the reader is tempted into making assumptions only to have them slither sideways. Will a brush with menace have adverse effects? Or could it be what she needs to finally take responsibility for her own life?

The only story which did not quite grip me was Snow Bunny, which deals with a middle-aged Canadian woman on a tropical holiday. For someone who is well-travelled and beyond middle age, it held no twists or new revelations.

The story that shines brightest among all the gleaming stories is the title story, Gone South, told as letters to, most likely, a childhood friend. Here Leggett's wonderfully dry sense of humour leavens gut-wrenching pathos. The protagonist begins by letting her friend know that she has melanoma and that she is in for a battle royal. "Please still send me all your news," she writes. "As difficult as it is to hear about other people's lives, I still want real relationships.'

The letters reveal detailed drug and surgical treatments, her bodily response to them, her relationship with her stalwart gem of a husband, her loathing of needles and the joy of being outside during a remission, rid of tumours. "They can't keep chopping them out, or there'll be nothing left of me," she writes. "I'll be a human colander."

Leggett's characters run the gamut from dreamy drifters to bossy boots (Lena Reynolds Gets Divorced) to smarty pants (Versus Heart) to vulnerable victims about to break free (One More Goodbye). No matter whether the story has taken us for a walk on the surreal side or if it whacks us in the heart via high realism, up close and extremely mortal, Leggett's writing cracks and sparkles.

Wise beyond her years at 33, Leggett, at work on her first book of poems, grew up in Zimbabwe and is also studying for her Masters in Counselling Psychology. In her acknowledgements, Leggett thanks her "fellow melanoma warriors."

978-1-896949-39-0

Caroline Woodward is the author of Penny Loves Wade, Wade Loves Penny (2010) and The Village of Many Hats (2012), both from Oolichan Books

reviews

PEDAL SHOCK

Chelsea Rooney offers a disturbing ride.

Pedal by Chelsea Rooney (Caitlin Press \$21.95)

hese days, it's hard to write shocking novel. Chelsea Rooney, an MFA graduate of UBC's creative writing program, and a host of The Storytelling Show on Vancouver Co-op Radio, has given it her best shot with Pedal, an exploration of the largely avoided subject of the potential pleasure that can arise from sexual violation.

Rooney's heroine is 25-year-old psychology grad student Julia Hoop who has been conducting interviews with "Molestas," her slang term for women who don't feel they were traumatized by being sexually molested as children. "The only shame I feel is because I do not feel any shame," one of them says.

Julia's somewhat morbid fascination with the subject matter of her thesis is made more disturbing by her empathy for adults who desire children. During her research she runs into her friend's new roommate, Smirks, an athletic and attractive man who admits to being attracted to pre-pubescent girls, and she finds herself attracted to his "Caravaggio model" physique. Her mother is addled with dementia and her father, nicknamed Dirtbag, is an undisputed rapist who victimized Julia when she was young, so her thesis advisor, Bob, is apprehensive about encouraging her studies, troubled that her work might not be motivated by science.

When her thesis advisor and her boyfriend Thierry both part company with her simultaneously, Julia invites the shaggy, beefcake Smirks to accompany her on a 6,000-kilometre bike trip in search of her father. The bike journey that gives rise to

asserts that sexual

abuse is not a

simplistic subject.





Katherine Fawcett

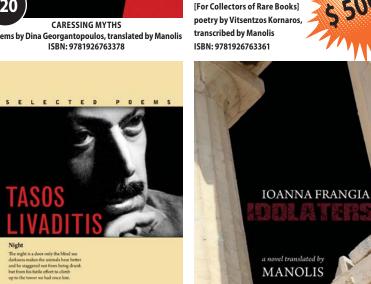
UNLOCKING TRUTH

The Little Washer of Sorrows by Katherine Fawcett (Thistledown Press \$18.95)

atherine Fawcett started her career as a sports reporter before venturing into freelance journalism and commercial writing. After becoming a mother and turning forty, Fawcett has turned her hand to fiction with her first collection of dark and comical stories, The Little Washer of Sorrows, in which bizarre or rare occurrences upset the status quo. Margo, the protagonist of the opening story "Captcha," is a perfect wife—both a mathematical genius and Kokanee beer model. After dutifully sending her husband Pete off to work, she finds Pete's filing cabinet unlocked. She cannot resist her curiosity and makes a life-changing discovery. The threat of something sinister lingers beneath the surface in many of







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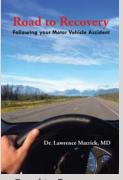
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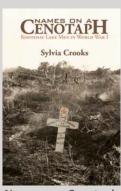
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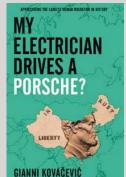
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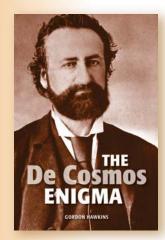
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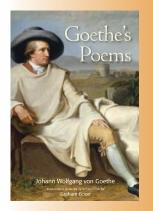
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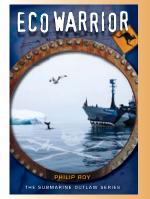
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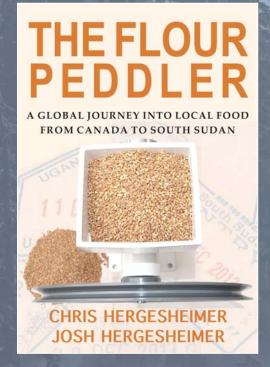




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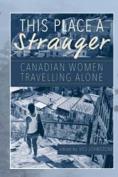
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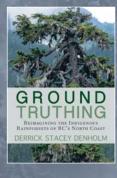
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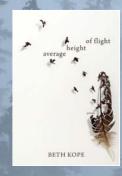
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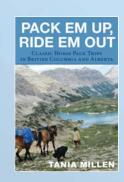
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MUS

EGENDARY SAN FRANCISCO rock 'n' roll promoter Bill Graham presented his first rock concert in California on November 6, 1965, the same day a seventeen-yearold in Vancouver named Jerry Kruz was staging his first show.

Kruz's promotion company, called The Afterthought, proceeded to present rock and psychedelic music groups at

Vancouver venues that included John's Church Hall (27th & Granville), the Scottish Auditorium, the historic Pender Auditorium (339 West Pender), the Bunkhouse, the Gazebo at First Beach and at the Kitsilano Theatre (2114 West Fourth, now known as the Russian Community Centre). At least fifteen of his shows were presented at the Pender Auditorium with the support of the Boilermakers

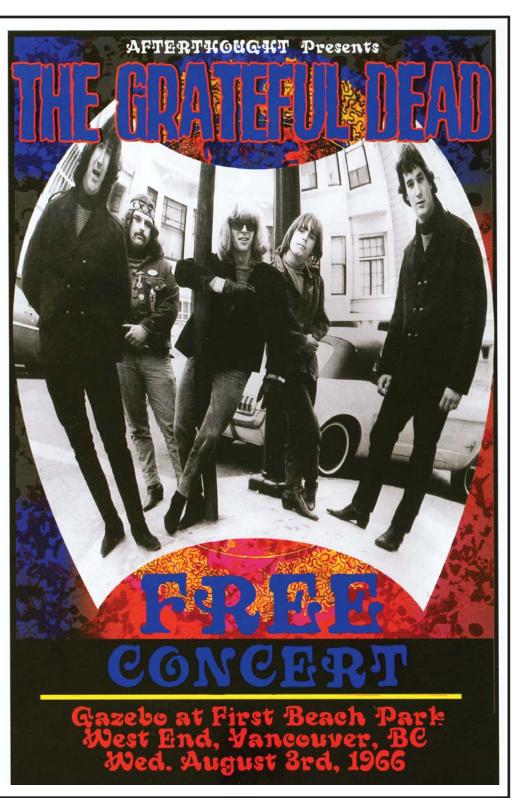
Kruz's memoir and art book, The Afterthought (RMB \$40), not only recalls the glory days of the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, Steve Miller, The Collectors (Chilliwack) and Country Joe & the Fish in Vancouver; it provides a chronological record of performances by local bands such as The Nocturnals, United Empire Loyalists, Tom Northcott Trio, Rocket Norton and the Black Snake Blues Band, Seeds of **Time**—among others—with rosters for their ever-changing memberships.

Of all the concerts Kruz attended, he cites a gig at the Pender Auditorium on August 5, 1966, featuring The Grateful Dead, supported by the United Empire Loyalists, as the best ever. Kruz vividly recalls the Dead's soundman and manager Owsley "Bear" Stanley "walking through the room dispensing acid to anyone who opens their mouth... This, of course, results in a high energy crowd."

The Afterthought is subtitled West Coast Rock Posters and Recollections from the '60s because Kruz and his wife (and saviour) Julie collected posters for the various gigs over several decades. Kruz says he commissioned many of these posters from artists Doug Cuthbert, Bruce Dowad, Bob Masse and the late Frank Lewis. Approximately half of his book

Drums keep pounding rhythms to the brain

Jerry Kruz recalls his glory days.



consists of these posters; the artists are not credited as co-authors.

Each poster is accompanied by Kruz' recollections, so The Afterthought doubles as an autobiography.

Kruz used to go to city hall, wearing a suit, at age 17, to get permits for his rock concerts, even though he was not legally old enough to attend the gigs.

The notorious undercover narc of that era, Abe Snidanko, finally busted him when he was at the top of his game,

a local big-shot. It is implied that Kruz believes he might have been set up by a business partner.

Jerry Kruz eventually lost his way, partly due to drugs, but also due to a traumatic experience when he was first jailed. Vancouver cops left him overnight, squeezed into a tiny locker in which he could not sit or comfortably stand. This painful, frightening and abusive treatment was quite simply torture—and Kruz never fully recovered from it.

By age 19, Kruz had presented more than sixty events but his glory days were over. By 1968, The Afterthought ventures would soon be eclipsed by a new club on Davie Street, the Retinal Circus, associated with a light show called Ectosplasmic Assault.

Kruz tried producing some concerts on the Sunshine Coast and he briefly managed the Riverqueen coffeehouse in the West End at 1043 Davie, befriending the legendary blues duo Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, before the venue was bought by Gary Taylor, a former drummer for The Classics, and turned into a jazz venue called Gary Taylor's Show Lounge.

In 1969 he married his teen sweetheart Julie. They have been married ever since. It was Julie in 1965 who provided the odd name for his impromptu coffee house and business, The Afterthought. It was the title of a poem she had read in her Grade 12 English class.

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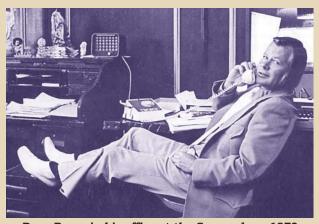
Because no copy of this original poster exists, Gary Anderson created version. This concert in Vancouver would be the first free concert The Grateful Dead ever gave.

N RECENT MEMORY, MOST PEOPLE KNOW THE ICONIC Commodore Ballroom in Vancouver has played host to musical greats like The Police, The Clash, Blondie and U2, and more recently Lady Gaga, Tom Waits and the **White Stripes**. But that's only a small part of its story. Live at the Commodore: The Story of Vancouver's Historic Commodore Ballroom (Arsenal Pulp \$28.95) by Aaron Chapman respectfully and diligently recounts the history of Vancouver's best-loved music venue from its 1930s conception, when it hosted the city's decadent society set, through WWII and the swing era, to its current state.

Having proven himself with Liquor, Lust and the Law: The Story of Vancouver's Legendary Penthouse Nightclub (Arsenal Pulp 2012), Chapman has maintained a high standard of populism and scholarship by digging up stories behind the legendary acts that graced the Commodore's stage, whether it's the bass player for Talking Heads scoring grass or Patti Smith insisting on taking a bath in a tub

One Ballroom fits all

How a 1930s dancehall became the Fillmore North



Drew Burns in his office at the Commodore, 1973

that was primarily used as a urinal, he has cleverly mixed history with an assortment of rare photos, paraphernalia and posters.

Chapman's thorough research also includes reminiscences from the likes of local bluesman Jim Byrnes (fondly recalling backstage conversations with the likes of Muddy Waters and Charley **Pride**) and reviews by the likes of the indomitable and always perceptive Georgia Straight and Province music critic Tom Harrison.

The central figure in the narrative is longtime Commodore head honcho Drew Burns. Back in the day, when there was no liquor license, patrons brought their own booze but were required to purchase ice buckets per table, hiding their liquor from police. The staff at the Commodore routinely placed the ice buckets on heaters before delivering them to patrons, thereby making the ice melt quickly and requiring them to order another bucket.

Live at the Commodore is commercial, popular history at its finest—amusing and enlightening.

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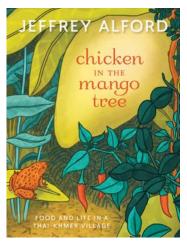
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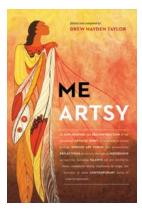


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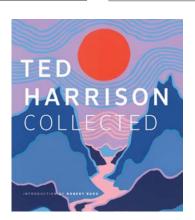
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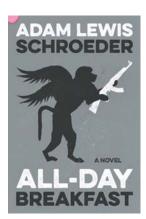
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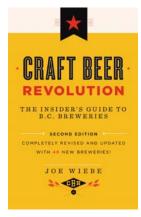


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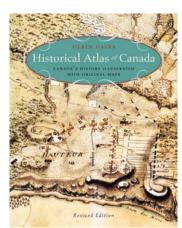


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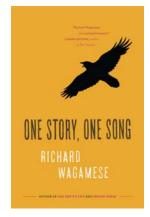
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 $\mathsf{AR}\mathsf{I}$

Emily Carr in England by Kathryn Bridge (RBCM \$27.95)

Emily Carr paintings and sketches were shipped from Victoria to the UK to appear in the first major international exhibition on Emily Carr at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London.

The long overdue show coincided with the release of Kathryn Bridge's Emily Carr in England covering Carr's sojourn to England as a budding artist.

Carr arrived in 1899, at age 27, and returned five years later. While at the Westminster School of Art, Carr was keen to participate in a segregated class for female artists drawing from the nude.

"I had never been taught to think of our naked bodies as something beautiful," she wrote, "only as something indecent, something to be hidden... [The model's] beauty delighted the artist in us. The illuminated glow of her flesh made sacred the busy hush as we worked."

KATHRYN BRIDGE'S BOOK INCLUDES historical photographs, Carr's own sketches, paintings and her so-called "funny books," some of which have never been published before.

One of her illustrated funny books makes fun of the guest house in which she lived; another describes an unsuccessful attempt to see Queen Victoria's funeral procession. A third describes a painting excursion into the woods of St. Ives, Cornwall.

"The five years Emily Carr spent in England at art schools have been largely forgotten or underappreciated in terms of her development as an artist and as a mature adult," Bridge says.

"This is in part because in later life Carr did not dwell on this time, although she did write about some aspects in her book, Growing Pains."

Copies of the book have been sent to Dulwich Picture Gallery in London to complement the new Carr exhibit—some 105 years after Carr left.

"My motivation in writing this book was to flesh out these years and to use today's technologies-web-

> England wasn't jolly for Emily Carr in 1901—far from it—but her fiveyear sojourn made her into an artist.

EMILY CARR IN ENGLAND

Emily Carr made the most of her early training in England despite acute anaemia and being interned in the East Anglia Sanatorium.

sites and digitized archival: records—to learn the true identities of people she made anonymous in her writings through the use of fictional names," Bridge said. "I was able to make connections and decipher identities, to create a much more accurate chronology of her whereabouts and interactions, and to make connections between Carr and her peers.'

The Vancouver Art Gallery has a permanent room to show Emily Carr's work, but it's the Royal BC Museum in Victoria that houses the world's largest collection of Emily Carr's art-more than 1,100 works of art (paintings and sketches), plus rugs, pottery and archival and library records.

THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE SISTERS, Emily Carr was born in the year British Columbia entered Confederation, on December 13, 1871. A brother was born several years later. Her mother died when she was twelve and her domineering father died in 1888 when 'Millie' was 14. A much detested and pious older sister made her life miserable, sometimes whipping her, until Emily Carr was able to study art in San Francisco.

After returning to Victoria in 1895, she was invited by a missionary friend of her sister Lizzie to make the first of her forays into the primeval rainforests of the West Coast, visiting Ucluelet in 1899 where her sister was becoming a missionary. This trip stirred her : interest in Aboriginal villages. On this trip she also gained her name from the Nuu-chah-nulth or Nootka people, 'Klee Wyck,' meaning Laughing One.

On her return voyage to Victoria, the ship's purser named William Locke Pad**don** fell in love with her but it was "an immense love : that I could neither accept: [nor] return."

Partially to get beyond the persistence of her suitor, she saved enough money to continue her education in England.

During this period she reportedly collapsed in the fall of 1902 with acute anaemia and was interned in the East Anglia Sanatorium in Suffolk, England for health reasons that have never been adequately explained or identified.

[Carr's mysterious and possibly damaging treatments for hysteria are at the core of Margaret Hollingsworth's novel about creativity and aging, Be Quiet (Coteau, 2003).]

Carr was not permitted to paint for 18 months during her enforced confinement, so she kept a sketchbook that reflects her experiences in the Sunhill Sanatorium. It became the gist of a book of hers first published in 1953 entitled Pause: A Sketch Book. Emily Carr came back to Canada in 1904.

Carr's dual adeptness at writing and painting once prompted George Woodcock to comment, "She would have made a good sister for William Blake."

roy and Ian Dejardin and gives a panorama of Carr's entire ca-



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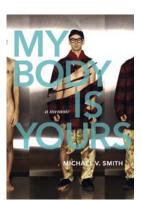
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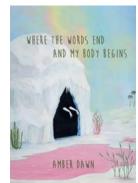


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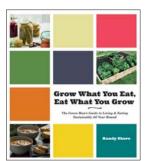
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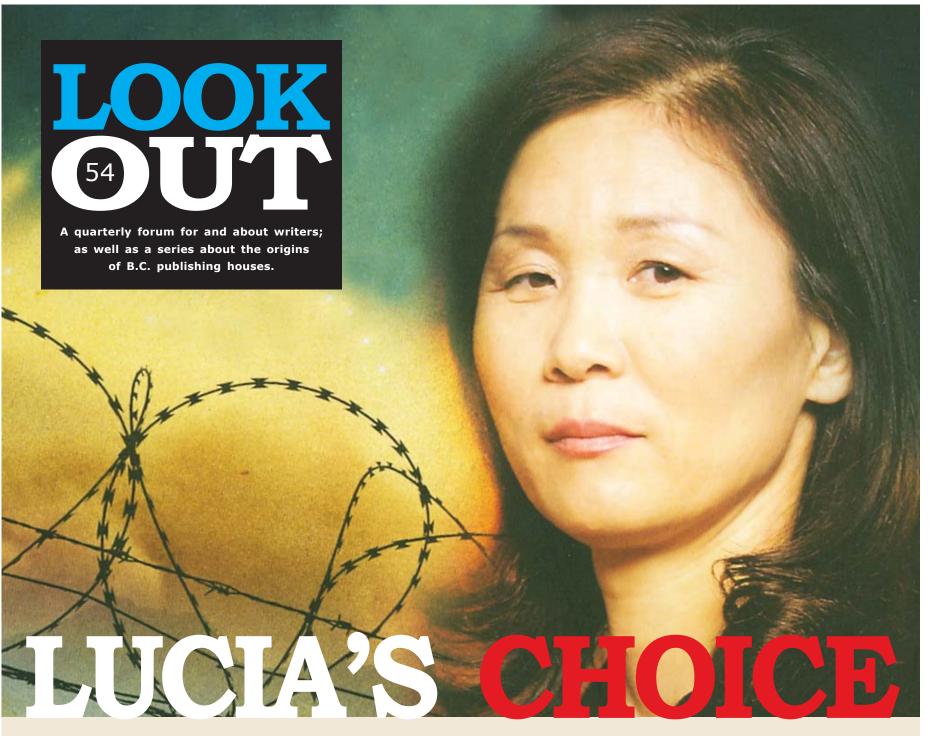
Ottawa Citizen

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Peter Heller, bestselling author of *The Dog Stars*

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Toronto Star



BY KEVEN DREWS

uring yet another famine, Lucia Jang was expected to choose between aborting her lateterm baby or giving it up to be killed—a North Korean variation of Sophie's Choice (the movie set during the Holocaust, starring Meryl Streep).

In the final chapters of her nightmarish memoir, Between the Sun and the Moon: One Woman's Life in North Korea and Escape to Freedom (D&M \$32.95), Jang takes a third option...

Assisted by award-winning journalist and coauthor **Susan McClelland** and translator **Soohyun Nam**, Jang has provided a riveting testimony about North Korea's atrocities and human-rights' violations. Along the way, the reader realizes the adjective "Orwellian" fails to adequately describe the culture of North Korea.

The all-knowing, all-powerful state led by **Kim Il-sung** is forever omnipresent in homes and schools where portraits of the "great father and eternal president" are hung. Everywhere else there are informants and the secret police, the *Boweebu*, who can make families vanish. Party leaders at the local level monitor the behaviour of families. North Koreans must publicly denounce their own crimes and personal failings at regular meetings known as *saenghwalchonghwa*.



FROM HER DIARY, SANDWICHED BETWEEN TWO LETTERS to the son she refused to kill, we learn Lucia

In her unprecedented memoir of human trafficking and labour camps, Lucia Jang describes what it takes to survive as a woman in North Korea.

Jang was born in the 1970s to an engineer father and kindergarten-teacher mother. Her parents weren't members of the communist party because relatives had fled to South Korea, which "was one of the worst things that could befall a family."

In North Korea, a family's status is based on its relationship to the ruling party. A family can be punished for generations. Jang's family was forced to live in an unheated house, far from the capital, with no party perks or privileges. Food was scarce throughout her life. The Jangs often nibbled weeds to ease their hunger pangs, and as a child she played games like "ration shop."

In school, students learn North Koreans are of pure spirit and mind, and "all the rest of the people are beasts." Conversely, despite omnipresent surveillance, rape and physical violence are common. Jang's first child was born from nonconsensual sex. She chose to marry the father, who turned out to be an alcoholic. He beat her and left her. Her mother arranged a forced adoption for her first child.

Desperate to help feed her family in the face of famine, Jang began to illegally cross into China to sell food. She was forced to sell sex at one point just to eat, although how much of a choice and how much of the situation was rape is murky to the reader and maybe even to Jang, too.

Eventually, after her capture by a border guard, Jang finds herself imprisoned in North Korea for a second time. Due to prison overcrowding, she returns to her family home where the mother of a friend informs Jang she is now under her watch. "The baby will be killed after it is born," the visitor tells her. Who is to do the killing? Is it Jang or the state? This information is left unclear. Jang's mother tells her daughter to do whatever she chooses, and so her journey to freedom begins.

To escape what is arguably the world's most repressive society, Lucia Jang must turn her back on her family forever.

In his afterword, Professor **Stephan Haggard** of the UC San Diego School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, summarizes: "The power of this account rests ... on underscoring the oppressive constraints of the Kim family regime, a silent but enduring and all-pervasive presence in the life story of every North Korean ... This memoir, and others like it, pose one of the central, moral issues of our day: how to bring freedom to North Korea."

Keven Drews is a full-time journalist who is concurrently pursuing a Master's degree in creative writing at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

PUBLISHING

Woody Allen biographer **David Evanier** is helping to raise the profile of the publication he started in 1971.

round the time **David Evanier** founded the literary periodical *EVENT* for Douglas College, when the campus in New Westminster was little more than a collection of trailers, **Jon Paul Henry** took an iconic black-and-white photograph of David Evanier and his memorable sideburns.

That quirky photo of Evanier with his black glasses and sideburns has been incorporated into the design for promotional tote bags that are just weird enough to pique the interest of idiosyncratic New York writerly types who've been buying them for the past year or so.

Evanier is now lending his name to a fundraising campaign to bolster the publication.

So who the heck is he?

*

BORN IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1947, David Evanier worked on a kibbutz in Israel, at *The New York Times* as a copy boy and editorial assistant, and at *The New Leader* as an assistant editor, before arriving in Canada in 1968.

Once he reached Vancouver, being able to say he had worked at *The New York Times* helped him get work at Douglas College where he briefly taught creative writing, edited *EVENT* and gave the publication its name.

"I wanted to implement my ideals and convictions about literature in a magazine that published only the best, most alive writing," he says. "I wanted each issue to be a notable event, a memorable event."



Evanier married in Vancouver in 1970, around the time he gained an MA in creative writing from UBC. His first novel was published by **Cherie Smith**'s fledgling Vancouver imprint called November House.

"Cherie Smith," he says, "was a passionate, spirited tigress of independent publishing. She was closely aligned with **Jacob Zilber**, the editor of *Prism International* at UBC.

"I think November House came about partly because of the inspiration of one remarkable first novel that *Prism* published, *Summer of the Black Sun*, by **Bill T. O'Brien**. That was a remarkable discovery written by a young man who was, as I remember, driving a truck at

the time.

"I later published a wonderful story by him in *EVENT*. Jake Zilber worked closely with Bill in developing that novel. I think you would find that *Summer of*

the Black Sun holds up beautifully. I still teach it.

"November House was, I think, partly financed by Cherie's brilliant husband,

Julian (Buddy) Smith, who ran a number of bookstore warehouses in Vancouver. Bill O'Brien died very young.

"I will never forget how Cherie accepted my novel, *The Swinging Headhunter*, for publication. I was laid up with a serious bout of hepatitis, and very depressed. She chose that moment to call me and tell me she was taking my novel for publication. It made for a rapid recovery.

"I cannot think of Cherie without thinking of Bill O'Brien, Jake Zilber, **Alice Munro**, Gordon Pinsent, and Buddy Smith all of whom remain vibrant figures for me."

4

DAVID EVANIER LEFT VANCOUVER IN 1973 and later became a fiction editor for *The Paris Review*, working for **George Plimpton**.

Evanier has since been a writer-in-residence at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire five times, taught at UCLA and won the Aga Khan Fiction Prize and the McGinniss Ritchie Short Fiction Award.

Currently the filmmaking team of Merchant & Ivory is making a movie based on Evanier's Mafia biography, *Making the Wise Guys Weep*, that was twice optioned by **John Travolta**.

For the past year he has been spending twelve hours per day at the Writers Room, an urban writers' colony in Manhattan, where he has been completing his forthcoming biography of **Woody Allen**.

David Evanier lives in Brooklyn.

EVENT has garnered numerous national and western magazine awards, as well as a Journey Prize and a Pushcart Prize. To make a donation, visit eventmagazine.ca/donate or donate via EVENT, P.O. Box 2503, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 5B2. Donations are tax deductible.



The following interview was conducted by **Joshua Grant**, on-line editor of EVENT.

How did it feel when you saw your face on our tote bags?

I was elated when I discovered the tote bags. I had Googled my name and there they were. It was a wonderful feeling to have Douglas College and EVENT recognize me this way. It brought back a flood of memories about Douglas and EVENT, about some of my most gifted students there — Jacqui Polk, David Falconer, Lyle Lonneberg, Laverne McPhail and Bea Dawson, wondering where they are and how they are doing. I had, of course, been in touch with Jon Paul Henry [now an instructor at Douglas College]. I remembered being interviewed for the job by Don Porter and George Wootton. The moment I mentioned having worked at The New York Times,



Woody Allen caricature by John Kascht

Don Porter's eyes lit up and left no doubt that I was hired.

I met my wife **Dini** the first semester at Douglas and we were married in 1970. And I know I've mentioned him a lot, but George—George Wootton—he was the soul of Douglas, ever-questing, galvanizing, full of passion and emotion and churning ideas and good vibes. And a very kind and generous man. I never stop thinking of him.

And there were other characters who were part of my life then: **David Watmough**, the talented Vancouver writer and playwright who introduced me to **James Colistro**, editor of a new show-business publication he was founding, *Stage Door*.

I went on from UBC to become editor of *Stage Door* in Toronto, a riotous and happy time that ended very quickly and brought me back to Vancouver and the hiring by Douglas College. And I cannot forget my mentors at UBC, **Doug Bankson** and **Jacob Zilber** of the

creative writing department, and of course Cherie Smith and Buddy Smith.

Can you tell us a bit about what you've been working on lately?

I'm currently working on a biography of Woody Allen. My most recent books are *The Great Kisser*, a novel; a biography of **Tony Bennett**, *All the Things You Are*; and a biography of **Bobby Darin**, *Roman Candle*.

My novel about the **Julius** and **Ethel Rosenberg** espionage case, *Red Love*, has recently been reissued as an e-book.

With Woody Allen, recent allegations have cast him in a troubling light. What are your thoughts on being a biographer as an interpreter of others' lives?

It's essential to capture the full complexity of any person's character and life. Obviously I cannot be judgmental or be enticed by colourful accounts, pro or con, by interviewees. I must respect the artist.

Woody Allen is a revolutionary. He came and conquered the entire world and even his earliest standup comedy is still timeless. So, objectivity and fairness are my objectives.

Is non-fiction a recent passion, or were you interested in life stories while you were with EVENT?

The line for me between fiction and non-fiction is a thin one. Sometimes, as a result, I will insert a real name into a story or novel. It's obvious that certain people we encounter are fabulous talkers. They just have to open their mouths and we know we can just sit back and write down what they say without altering it. Is that still fiction? Who cares as long as it works?

Some Italians are fabulous talkers; so are some blacks and Jews. Night guards, lonely people who have no one to talk to, are haunting talkers.

Some true stories are so fantastic they have to be told straight and not be disguised as fiction. I think that's true of my book *Making the Wiseguys Weep*, my biography of **Jimmy Roselli**, the singer who called himself "the sweetheart of the Mafia." It's true that the Mafia did love him, and when I interviewed many of the characters around Roselli, I just could not have invented dialogue better than what I heard from them.

I thought in my early days as a writer that only fiction was real literature. Now it's obvious to me that great writing can come from many different genres. If it jumps off the page and grabs you, it's great, period.

Autobiographies like *A Life* by **Elia Kazan**, A *Walker in the City* by **Alfred Kazin**, and *Act One* by **Moss Hart** are masterpieces.

What was going on—in your head, in your life—when you started EVENT?

I really wanted to publish the work of writers
I loved—those known to me and those I dis-

Charles Bukowski, with whom I was corresponding for years, was emerging as a great talent, and I published him in many issues. I also had many contacts in the publishing world and was able to go to writers like Cynthia Ozick, Charles Reznikoff and Harvey Shapiro, all of whom I had the deepest regard for.

It seems that you were pretty prescient regarding Bukowski and others. Are there any writers that you regret turning down? No, not one. George Plimpton, my boss at *The*

No, not one. George Plimpton, my boss at *The Paris Review*, told me that I had a built-in shit detector. But when you turn down writers, some of them NEVER forgive you.

When my work has been turned down, I feel terrible, but I try again, and again, unless I don't respect the editor.

My first job, before Douglas, was in the Sunday Book Review of The New York Times. I

was at the front desk and a writer came storming in looking for **Christopher Lehman-Haupt**, an editor who had written a negative review of his book. The writer was beet red, shaking his fists, screaming, "Where is he? I'm going to kick him in the balls."

Curiously, I found a lot of this writer's old novels on a book stall recently and thought of this incident. He's one of the forgotten ones. How did you come up with the name for EVENT?

I wanted each issue to be a notable event, a memorable event.

What were your feelings on leaving **EVENT?**Too much sorrow. I came back a couple of years to visit, and almost stayed.

After EVENT, you moved on to The Paris Review. How was that experience?

George Plimpton was very generous toward me. He called me from a plane to tell me he was publishing a story of mine. Then he published two more. Then I started reading from the slush pile for him and coming up with discoveries. And so he hired me as fiction

It was a very glamorous world of George's, full of the beautiful people. I was not comfortable in it. He couldn't understand why I didn't want to eat at Elaine's or hang out with **Norman Mailer**.

Part of it was certainly my own problem. They call it fear of success and I would call it an inferiority complex. I got over it. I guess I saw that world as corrupting and I was a purist in those days. But in fact the literary world is saturated with these types of people, and some of them are brilliant and some of them are shnooks.

I also went to Hollywood on a screenwriting fellowship from **Stephen Spielberg**'s Chesterfield Film Company and stayed there from 1993 to 2002. That's a whole different kind of literary world where the money, if you make it, is so big and tempting you can't wait to sell out.

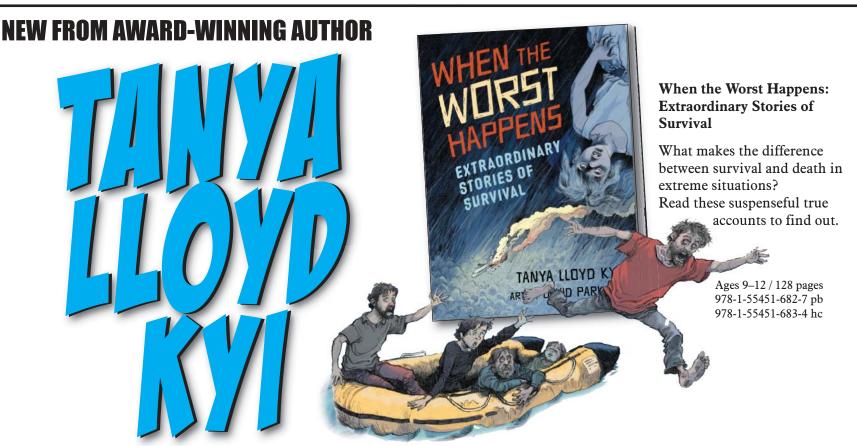
One of my first acts was to visit the house where Bukowski had lived on Delongpre Avenue. There was also a bookstore in Hollywood run by a guy named **Big Red** that was a shrine to Bukowski, it sold only Bukowski

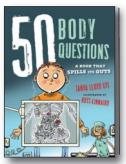
I'm still in shock from that world, although **Nathanael West** got it right in *Day of the Locust* and *Miss Lonelyhearts* in 1939. I thought I would enjoy all that sleaze, but I got over it. **Are you working on anything else at the moment?**

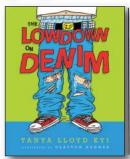
My other projects are my novel in progress and a biography of **Morton Sobell**, who was convicted of espionage for the Soviet Union along with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. I wrote of Morton fictionally in my novel *Red Love*. I also have three of my novels coming out as e-books from Open Road.

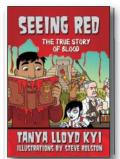
Finally, what are you reading these days? Woody Allen. The plays of August Wilson. The fiction of Jennifer Belle, Alice Munro, Edward P. Jones, Philip Roth, Iris Owens (After Claude), Ralph Ellison, Richard Yates, Dostoyevsky's The Insulted and Injured, Toni Morrison's Bluest Eye, Jonathan Schwartz's The Man Who Knew Cary Grant, Daniel Gordis's biography of Menachem Begin, the letters of Jonathan Netanyahu, Charles Graeber's The Good Nurse, Blake Bailey's biography of Richard Yates, Yossi Klein Halevi's Like Dreamers. Also His Wife Leaves Him by Stephen Dixon and The Cost of Living by Mavis Gallant.

For more on David Evanier, including his list of books, see ABCBookWorld. His forthcoming book is simply entitled **Woody** (St. Martin's Press 2015).









Also by Tanya Lloyd Kyi:

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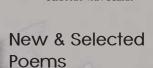


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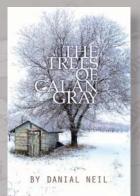
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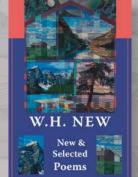


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HOW IT ALL STARTED...

IN 1990, IAN MCALLISTER JOINED HIS father, Peter McAllister, a past president of the Sierra Club of Western Canada, and other environmentalists, journalists and photographers for a one-week reconnaissance voyage to the remote Koeye River.

Ian McAllister and his future wife, **Karen Schulz**, grew more interested in the area when they later saw an inventory map of habitat, compiled by **Keith Moore**, under contract with Earthlife Canada and Ecotrust.

To share their vision of protecting a 2,000-kilometre strip of coastal bear habitat from Knight Inlet to Alaska, the McAllisters and a few friends formed the Raincoast Conservation Society in 1990.

A boat was needed to properly explore the area, so when Ian and Karen heard about a used trimaran sailboat for sale in Ontario, they bought the 36-foot Companion over the phone, with money from their treeplanting jobs. Neither had sailed alone before.

The McAllisters made seven pilgrimages in seven years, verifying Moore's inventory map and collecting stories and photos for a book that would engender the safeguarding of the bear habitat. Ian and Karen McAllister eventually chose the name Great Bear Rainforest for the region along with environmental activist **Tzeporah Berman** in San Francisco in 1996.

With a foreword by **Robert Kennedy Jr.**, the McAllisters' coffee table book,
The Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's
Forgotten Coast (Harbour, 1997), cowritten with **Cameron Young**, quickly
became one of the most influential
books in Canadian history. Time Magazine heralded Ian and Karen McAllister
as "Environmental Leaders for the 21st
Century."

While touring Europe in March of 1998, Ian McAllister persuaded some pulp and paper companies to curtail

purchases from B.C.-based operations accused of poor logging methods, to the consternation of the Forest Alliance of B.C. spokesman **Patrick Moore**.

The following month Greenpeace staged anti-logging protests in Antwerp and 23 German cities. In Antwerp, 30 Belgian activists painted a 100-metre slogan on the hull of *Saga Wind*, a freighter carrying B.C. lumber. It read, "Don't buy rainforest destruction. Stop Doman and Interfor."

The B.C. government eventually introduced measures to protect some of the Great Bear Rainforest in 2006, promising to allocate \$30 million if the federal government matched that commitment. In 2007, the federal government pledged to spend \$30 million to help preserve 1.2 million hectares of rainforest, the largest intact temperate rainforest left on earth. An additional \$60 million was raised by private organizations and philanthropic groups.

AND HOW IT IS NOW...

THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST ON B.C.'S central and northern coastline now covers an area three times the size of Prince Edward Island. The central figure in two new books

that focus on the Great Bear Rainforest is photographer-writer-activist Ian McAllister of Bella Bella, who has written Great Bear Wild: Dispatches from a Northern Rainforest (Greystone \$50). UBC doctoral student Justin Page has written Tracking The Great Bear: How Environmentalists Recreated British Columbia's Coastal Rainforest (UBC \$95).

978-1-77164-045-9

Justin Page

BY KEVIN DREWS

n Tracking The Great Bear, Justin Page, an environmental social scientist for an environmental consulting company based in Vancouver called ERM Rescan, identifies Ian McAllister as the main member of an "actor network" that generated the 2006 conservation agreement. Page shows that conservation agreement was no small feat because the stretch of coast was "materially and politically aligned with the interests of the forest industry, and its uninspiring name was simply the 'Mid-Coast Timber Supply Area."

Page traces how environmentalists negotiated the agreement through a "linked series of processes." That simply means they mapped the area, giving it boundaries and a physical description and shape; they published stories and photos of it; they shifted the focus and interest of fellow environmentalists to the area, capturing the world's attention; and they managed to woo forest companies and First Nations to support their cause. McAllister's work

as a photographer in the field was fundamental. For instance, one of his photos was later used in an environmental advertising campaign in *The New York Times*.

Now Ian McAllister has released *Great Bear Wild:*Dispatches from a Northern Rainforest. Departing from the northern tip of Vancouver Island, he stops just to the north

Islands and then visits
First Nations communities like Hartley
Bay, also stopping off

at old canneries and trekking through the rainforest. His photos and narrative capture the rhythms of terrestrial and marine life. Images of bears, wolves, herring, anemones, sea stars and kelp, humpback whales, orcas and rainforests fill the pages. So fantastic are the photos, so vivid are their colours, they tend to distract the reader from the written word.

Many people already take the existence of the Great Bear Rainforest for granted, as if the area is sacrosanct, but parts of the Great Bear Rainforest are now being considered for the future home of liquefied natural gas plants and the proposed terminus of Enbridge Inc.'s Northern Gateway pipeline. Tankers could soon ply those same waters, carrying petroleum products from Alberta's oil sands to a port in the coastal community of Kitimat. The Great Bear Rainforest is also threatened—despite the 2006 agreement—by fish farms, industrial logging, seismic testing, unsustainable fisheries, and

McAllister adds towards the end: "... most of these multi-billion-dollar fossil fuel transport schemes, including refineries and liquefaction plant proposals, are so ill-conceived and economically, culturally and environmentally flawed that they should be discounted outright."

That declarative ending seems to enforce one of Page's central arguments: McAllister is not just targeting a general audience; his writing and photography is specifically crafted to appeal to people who may be convinced to back an environmental campaign. Saving bears, saving wolves, saving salmon. Saving ourselves.

9780774826716

Keven Drews is a full-time journalist concurrently pursuing a Master's degree in creative writing at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

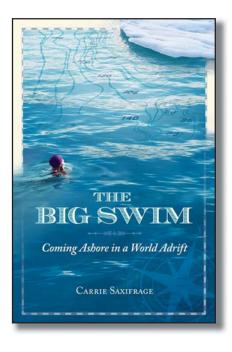
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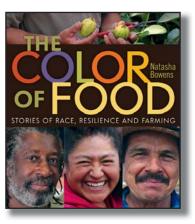
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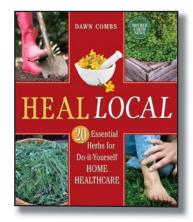
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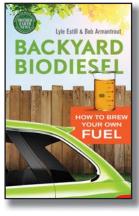
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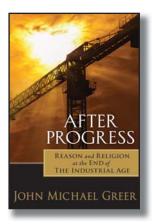
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-Rev. Michael Dowd, author, Thank God for Evolution

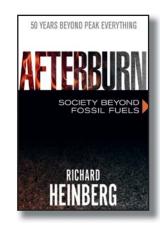


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The Party's Over changed my life. Perhaps Afterburn will change yours. -Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition movement











ENVIRONMENT

in B.C. in 1974 after breaking new ground as a 'codiscoverer' of acid rain in Ontario. It took 20 years for the science to be recognized and for governments to set new emission standards. He was also a member of the International Panel on Climate Change that received the Nobel Prize in 2007.

Sandy McFarlane has spent 30 years as an internationally recognized fisheries researcher, studying both individual species and how the marine ecosystem functions.

Together, as scientists at the Pacific Biological Research Station in

Nanaimo, they invited ten other experts to help them complete an unprecedented, 384-page book about the geology, biology and anthropology of the Strait of Georgia, illustrated by more than 250 colour photos, maps and charts.

The Strait of Georgia, as defined in **The Sea Among Us: The Amazing Strait of Georgia** (Harbour \$39.95), is part of the larger Salish Sea, which also includes the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound.

Mark Forsythe, former host of *BC Almanac* on CBC Radio, spoke with Dick Beamish and Sandy McFarlane the day their book was launched. 978-1-55017-683-4

BCBW: You talk a lot about plankton in the book—and how much one degree of warming can affect the food chain supply...

BEAMISH: Plankton is probably the

Strait goods

"You have to focus the money on the issues that scientists think are the most important."

key to understanding what's going on with the Strait of Georgia. But you know this old issue: you can't manage what you can't measure. Sandy and I both feel that we need a lot better monitoring and measuring of plankton.

It's just amazing how small changes in the environment affect plankton, which then affects all the other species.

BCBW: The Pacific Biological Research Station is a federally funded institution. Given the recent cutbacks, do we have the resources and people required to do

what you're describing: to monitor the health of plankton? Or anything else in Georgia Strait?

MARK

FOYSYTHE

BEAMISH: The short answer probably is no. But the amount of monitoring that needs to be done is probably beyond the ability of governments to afford. So you have to focus the money on the issues that scientists think are most critical. As you know, that's not always an easy thing to do.

BCBW: How should we be responding to the impact of open net cage fish farming on wild stocks?

MCFARLANE: I think the idea of hav-

the Cohen Commission] is probably a good one. All the evidence so far that I've seen is still pretty inconclusive, but it indicates that having those farms in those areas is not quite as bad as some people might think. We've given the aquaculture industry eight years to show us that, in fact, that statement is correct. And in those eight years there's been a moratorium; so there's been no new farms. That's probably a reasonable approach on the part of the government to address this issue because it's of huge concern to British Columbians. BCBW: What do you see coming in terms of population expansion and industrial development around the strait? MCFARLANE: I think the estimates right now are 75% of British Columbians live within 10 km of the Strait of Georgia and that is projected to double within the next 30 to 40 years. It's going to be a tremendous amount of new stress on the strait. More con-

ing a moratorium [as recommended by

BCBW: Obviously many people are concerned about increased tanker traffic and pipelines. So how well are we doing at taking what scientists know

taminants. There will be increases in

marine traffic, no matter what.

and putting that into the policies and political decisions that drive how we manage the Strait of Georgia?

MCFARLANE: In the past we made decisions based on this fish, or are we harming this particular little area. We didn't look at it as a system. I think we're just beginning to take all the information we have and use it to assess the overall ecosystem.

BEAMISH: That's why the intent of the book is to provide people with the background information that exists scientifically. The experts volunteered their time. It's scientific information, but it's not written for scientists. It's understandable, and the kind of information that British Columbians need to have to make good decisions.

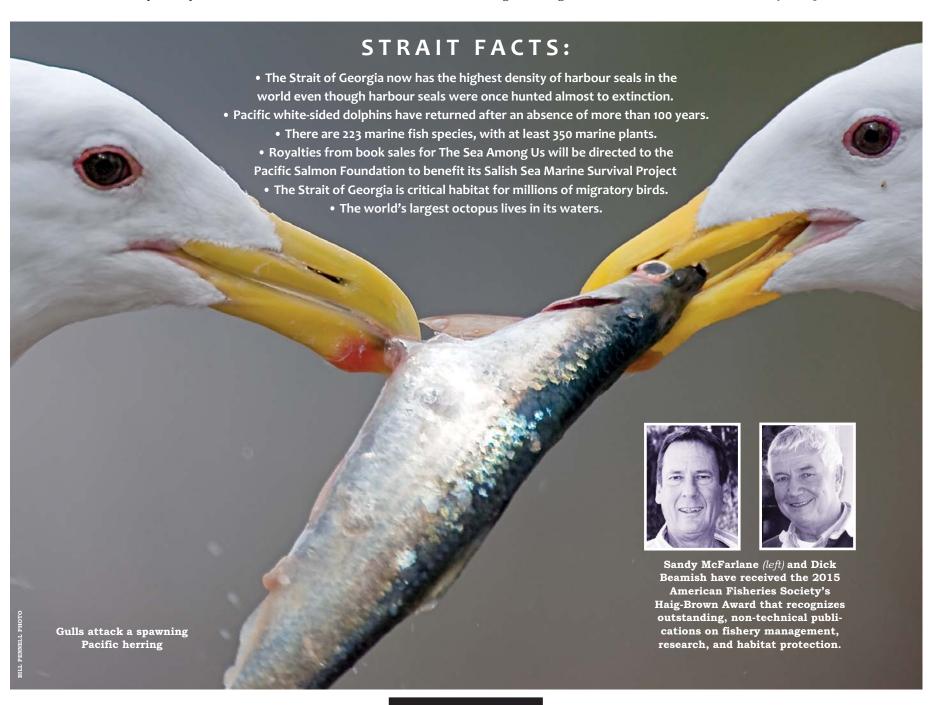
We are not going to stop all development. But the development that we do have, we want to make sure that there is an understanding of what impacts could be. And if there are impacts, they are going to be monitored and measured. **BCBW:** So how would you rate the

BCBW: So how would you rate the overall health of the strait?

BEAMISH: Well, first you have to gather background information from the people that have expertise, then you can start to decide not just what the health is, but also what the complexity is for stewardship.

MCFARLANE: You have to bring all parties to the same table. If they have a common understanding of how the actual ecosystem works, then you can be talking from the same baseline.

Mark Forsythe recently retired from CBC Radio and plans to spend more time exploring and writing about B.C. This transcript is an edited version of a longer conversation.



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FLYING WITH WHITE EAGLE

Ayliffe "Pat" Carey (1903–1999) in his own words – as told to Ben Nuttall-Smith

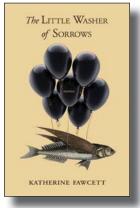
Pat's experiences growing up in B.C.'s Fraser Valley, and as a homesteader and logger, provide insight into pioneering days in the early 20th century. His stories of flying from Chilliwack to Canada's Far North are fascinating tales of aviation

history.



ISBN 978-0-9865938-9-5 \$14.95 CN (146 pages) Available from the author at www.bennuttall-smith.ca

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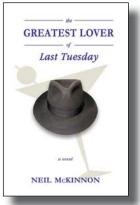
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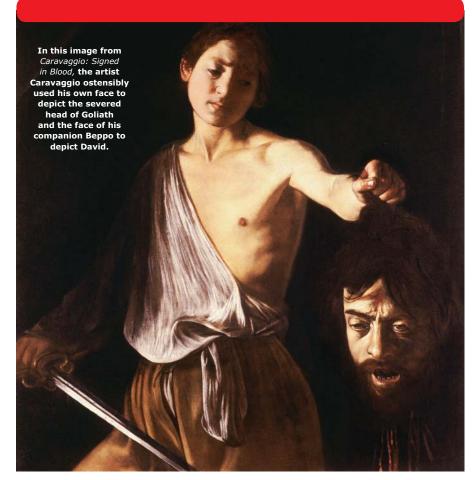
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reviews



CARAVAGGIO & ME

On the run with one of history's wildest artists.

LOUISE

Caravaggio: Signed in Blood by Mark Smith (Tradewind \$12.95)

as **Caravaggio**, the artist who was born in Milan in 1571 as **Michelangelo di Merisi** led a volatile life. Although ostensibly Biblical in origin, his disturbingly realistic paintings—such as *The Beheading of John the Baptist* or *David and Goliath*—revealed his passionate and earthy character. He was a man given to hubris and impulsive violence.

By age 20, Caravaggio was toiling in a factory-like studio in Rome, hav-

ing been forced to flee Milan after wounding a police officer. Underpaid and grossly over-qualified, he turned out hundreds of masterful paintings of flowers and fruit until his work was brought to the attention of an influential cardinal.

Caravaggio became one of Italy's most well-known painters. Lucrative commissions and accommodating patrons afforded him the opportunity to develop a style of painting that fused a dramatic play of shadow and light with an insistence on working directly from life. This approach was a controversial deviation in a time of idealized piety in art.

In his fast-paced debut teen adventure novel **Caravaggio: Signed in Blood**, Burnaby English teacher **Mark Smith** picks up the story of Caravaggio's tempestuous life just before Caravaggio kills a man in a street fight.

The narrator is an orphaned and resourceful 15-year-old, Beppo, an indentured servant, who has put in two long years with his "bloated pig of a master" scraping old wine barrels so they could be lined with "new wafer-thin oak planks" and fobbed off as still usable. When this wine merchant is killed by a young dandy in a yellow silk doublet, Beppo is accused of the murder.

On the run through the crowded Milano streets, Beppo chances upon "the most famous painter in all of Italia," Caravaggio, who is taunting the murderous dandy and his brother at an out-door tennis court. A brawl ensues and Beppo watches in horror as the painter, despite serious wounds, casually kills the dandy.

Quick-thinking Beppo spirits the painter away and, at the home of **Cardinal Del Monte**, Beppo poses as the great artist's servant. The risk of sheltering two men who are wanted for separate murders is too much for Caravaggio's patron, so Beppo and Caravaggio must flee.

First, they seek refuge in Napoli, "the richest and most depraved city in the world," where Beppo meets the courtesan Fortunata Fiammini and becomes besotted with her daughter Dolcetta.

Next, there's a stomachheaving voyage to Malta,

then a battle with Barbary pirates, a daring escape and a fatal sword fight that makes young Beppo the recipient, "by every law of the sea," of the considerable fortune on the pirate caravel.

Meanwhile, hot-headed Caravaggio has been imprisoned for shooting a Maltese knight, and it's up to Beppo to set him free before racing back to Rome with a mad plan to claim the hand of the delectable Dolcetta.

History tells us Caravaggio did indeed escape from Malta, although he was stripped of his knighthood. He also travelled to Sicily and Naples, gaining ever more prominence for his paintings, and in 1610 he was returning to Rome for a papal pardon for his crimes when he died. It is assumed he succumbed to lead poisoning, a danger for artists of the day. There is also a theory that lead poisoning accounted for his violent nature.

978-896580-05-0

Louise Donnelly writes from Vernon.

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Joan Betty Stuchner's books are fueled by optimism.

Joan Betty Stuchner, age

eight in Leeds, England

Bagels The Brave! (Orca \$6.95) Bagels On Board (Orca \$7.95) by Joan Betty Stuchner

RIOR TO THE IMMINENT RELEASE OF ner Bagels The Brave! and Bagels On Board, both sequels to Bagels Come Home! (Orca, 2014) and coincidental with the re-publication of Honey Cake as A Time To Be Brave from Random House, Joan Betty Stuchner died of pancreatic cancer on June 7, 2014. She finished the final edits for the new books from her hospital bed.

"Joan was a delight to work with," says Orca editor Amy Collins. "Her

joyfulness and enthusiasm for stories, and for life in general, was impossible to miss."

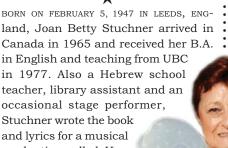
Stuchner's stories about an energetic puppy named Bagels, rescued from the pound, were inspired by her late mother-in-law's sheltie. She described the real life model as "not only an escape artist, but totally uncontrollable, disobedient and ended up being expelled from puppy preschool."

The dog emerged in print

as a mixture of Sheltie, Whippet and : Jack Russell terrier.

"Joan was my unflagging cheerleader," says fellow author Cynthia Heinrichs, "and Bagels the Brave! and Bagels On Board are a joyful legacy. They will undoubtedly earn her a whole new group of readers."





production called Hanukkah in Chelm that was produced twice in Vancouver. Much of the writing was derived from her Jewish faith. Set in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen in 1943, chickens. Stuchner's Honey Cake (Tradewind, 2007), is about a young Jewish

Joan Betty Stuchner dresses as one of her characters, Sadie the Ballerina, for a fundraiser.

boy, David Nathan, and his family trying to keep their bakery open. David's papa still does the best baking in the city and mama is making her special honey cake for Rosh Hashanah to welcome the Jewish New Year but very little is sweet in Denmark after three years of Nazi occupation. When David is asked to make a delivery of chocolate éclairsa rare treat with cream and butter so scarce—he learns his sister is in the Resistance, blowing up buildings and railway tracks.

Stuchner included a recipe for the spicy, coffee-flavoured honey cake and an afterword about the history of the Danish Jews.



JOAN BETTY STUCHNER'S ELEVEN books are suffused with optimism and delight. "I know that many writers tell you to imagine you are writing for a specific child," she once said, "but I always want to write for both myself and everyone else, regardless of age."

In The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band (Scholastic. 1998), Shira wants nothing more than to play fiddle with Benny and Yossi in their klezmer band at weddings

and bar mitzvahs. But ten-year-old girls can't play, says her father. Especially one who's never had a music lesson. "This is Canada," Shira says. "Anything is possible."

Stuchner continued her "anything is possible" theme with Sadie the Ballerina (Scholastic, 2007), the story of a clumsy girl who wants to be a ballerina. Similarly her Josephine's Dream (Silverleaf Press, 2008) is a picture-book biography about the life of black singer and dancer

Josephine Baker who left America

to become famous in Paris. Set in the mythical Jewish town of Chelm, populated by fools, Stuchner's Can Hens Give

Milk? (Orca, 2011) is about a rural family with five children, twelve scrawny chickens, one rooster and not much money. The father Shlomo dreams he can get milk from their

Anything is possible.

Bagels the Brave: 9781459804937 Bagels on Board: 9781459806955

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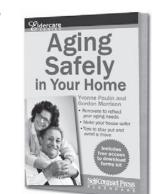
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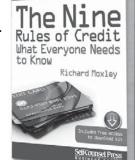
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From the beautiful to the bizarre

It was not all sweetness 'n' free love back in the Sixties.

ATHER THAN BEING A PAEAN TO ECCENTRICITY AND BUCOLIC SHARING, Douglas L. Hamilton and Darlene Olesko's Accidental Eden: Hippie Days on Lasqueti Island (Caitlin Press \$24.95) tells it like was. It's a riveting and responsible reflection of back-to-land idealism, ingenuity and goofiness.

This amusing, warm, smart and well-written local history includes a chapter on the unsolved murder of long-time resident **Terry Beck** in August of 1980 when he was shot with an ancient .303 rifle, whereupon an islander named **Brother Richard** disappeared soon afterward, possibly murdered for knowing too much.

More often levity and kindness were the norm. Lasqueti Islanders became justifiably renowned as purists who re-

fused mod cons. Specifically, the community convinced BC Hydro to re-route its Cheekye-Dunsmuir power line around, rather than through, their island, changing the way BC Hydro managed its power delivery into rural areas.

There have been precious few books attempting to realistically and fully capture the zeitgeist of the hugely influential counterculture movement in B.C. *Accidental Eden* is easily one of the best of them. Caitlin Press has also re-issued *Gumboot Girls: Adventure, Love & Survival on the North Coast of B.C.*, a rare reflection of female lives during that era.

978-1-927575-52-9



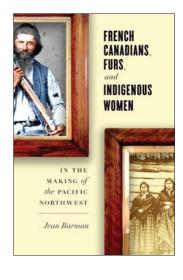
GOING COASTAL

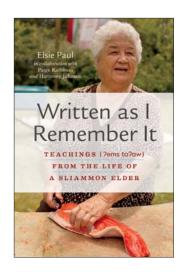
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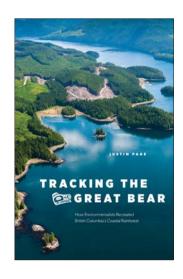
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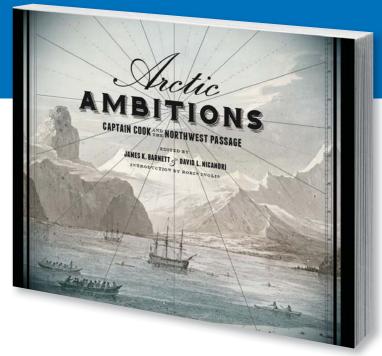
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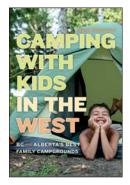
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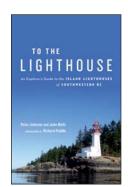




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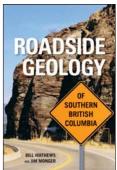
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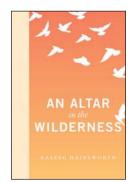


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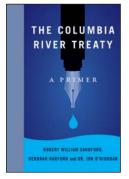


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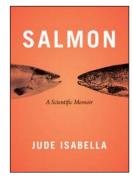
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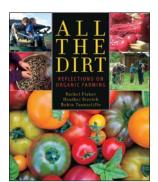


Salmon

A Scientific Memoir

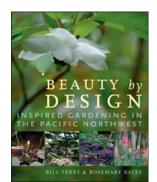
Jude Isabella

Investigates a narrative that is important to the identity of the Pacific Northwest Coast-the salmon as an iconic species. Traditionally it's been a narrative that is overwhelmingly about conflict. But is that always necessarily the case? RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$20 pb | \$9.99 ebook



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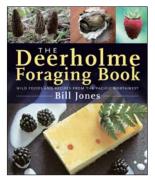


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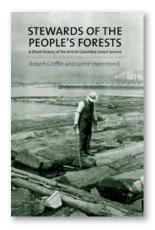


NEW from the Royal BC Museum

Stewards of the People's Forests: A Short History of the **British Columbia Forest Service**

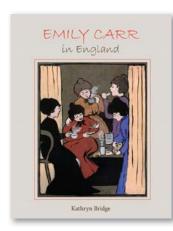
Robert Griffin and Lorne Hammond

Emily Carr in England Kathryn Bridge



\$22.95 / paperback 978-0-7726-6832-5

Robert Griffin and Lorne Hammond tell the story of the BC Forest Service, which has watched over the province's largest industry for more than 100 years. They relate not just the big stories involving the likes of H.R. MacMillan and Ernest Manning, but also those of the forest rangers and firefighters who dedicated their lives – and sometimes risked them – to protect BC's forests.

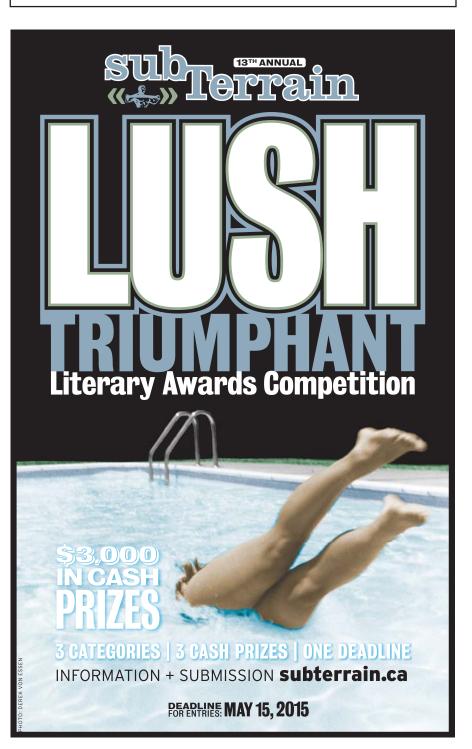


\$27.95 / hardcover 978-0-7726-6770-0

Kathryn Bridge takes a fresh look at Emily Carr's five years in England, from 1899 to 1904, to attend art schools. But an unexpected illness forced Carr to convalesce in the East Anglia Sanatorium for 15 months. Bridge illustrates her findings with a selection of the artist's sketches and three of her "funny books", including A London Student Sojourn, which makes fun of life in a London guest house for young women.



Royal BC Museum books are distributed by Heritage Group. hgdistribution.com 1-800-665-3302.



HEALT

While searching for 'patient zero,' tropical disease experts traced the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa to a toddler's chance encounter with an infected fruit bat in the village of Meliandoua in remote eastern Guinea.

Zero heroes

How researchers must discover the origins of epidemics

Vanessa Farnsworth

OOKS DON'T ALWAYS start with authors. When publisher Rick Wilks heard a Radio Lab documentary about the origins of HIV/AIDS, he imagined there ought to be an educational book for young adults about the scientific and social origins of epidemics, sometimes called pandemics. As someone who thrives on research, Marilee Peters, the editor of BC Organic Grower, was asked by Wilks to write Patient Zero: Solving the Mysteries of Deadly Epidemics (Annick \$14.95), a fascinating compendium, for readers aged ten and up, tracing the origins of epidemics.

More people have died from epidemics than from wars and natural disasters combined, so scientists in recent centuries have doubled as detectives, often looking for "patient zero"-the first person known to have contracted

the disease. Back in the 19th century, physician Dr. **John Snow** in London traced a cholera epidemic to a six-month-old child whose cholera-laden diarrhea contaminated water at a local pump, leading to 10,000 deaths.

With two children of her own, Peters hopes the stories of medical sleuthing she shares in Patient

Zero will inspire kids to learn more about the science of epidemiology. Her chapter on tracing the origins of Ebola can be found on our affiliate news site, BCBookLook. 978-1554516704

CLAUDIA CORNWALL'S CATCHING CANCER: THE Quest for Its Viral & Bacterial Causes (Rowman & Littlefield \$36) profiles groundbreaking cancer researchers and describes a link between infections and cancer. "For years, we've thought cancer was the result of lifestyle choices, environmental factors, or genetic mutations," says Cornwall. "But pioneering investigators have begun to change that picture. We now know that infections cause 20 percent of cancers, including liver, stomach, and cervical cancer, which together kill almost 1.8 million people every year.

"While the idea that you can catch cancer may sound unsettling, it is actually good news. It means antibiotics and vaccines can be used to combat this most dreaded disease. With this understanding, we have new methods of preventing cancer, and perhaps we may be able to look forward to a day when we will no more fear cancer than we do polio or rubella."

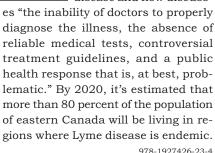
Catching Cancer features Cornwall's interviews with Nobel laureates, Harald zur Hausen, Barry Marshall, and Robin Warren, as well as other notable scientists, taking the reader inside the research labs to describe discoveries that are altering medical approaches to the confounding disease. It was selected by the American Library Association as one of the year's best books when it was published.

9781442215207

A MIXTURE OF BIOGRAPHY AND SCIENCE,

Vanessa Farnsworth's Rain on a Distant Roof: A Personal Journey Through Lyme Disease in Cana-

da (Signature Editions \$19.95) not only introduces the reader to the bizarrely intelligent bacterium at the root of Lyme disease; it recounts the Creston, B.C. resident's own horrendous battle with the disease since 2007. Farnsworth has previously written numerous articles on the disease and now discuss-





ELDER CARE AND THE MANAGEMENT OF ELDERS' finances and estates is the subject for Susan Bewsey's Estate Downsizing for Caregivers (Self Counsel \$12.95) that shares her experience with "downsizing someone else's life." Specifically, Bewsey describes the pitfalls and stress of amalgamating households and making wills. According to Bewsey, caregivers of all types can easily make mistakes when acting in someone's best interest. 978-1-77040-1901-4

reviews

GETTING TO GURTA

The wit and wisdom of Johann Goethe

Goethe's Poems translated by Graham Good (Ronsdale \$18.95)

IKE VAN GOGH, YOU PROBABLY STILL can't pronounce his name properly. But you've seen it often enough.

On a quiz show, given multiple choices, you could likely identify the polymath **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe** as a German who spent about sixty years refining his story about Faust, a guy who sells his soul to the devil. They re-did that story as a 1958 baseball movie called *Damn Yankees*, derived from a 1955 musical of the same name.

And if you have a literary background, you'd know his novel about a doomed romantic, *The Sorrows of Young Werther* (1774), caused a sensation back in the 18th century, leading to a spate of mimicked suicides by overwrought young Romeos across Europe.

The hero's quest for lifelong self-development in Faust reflects Goethe's own creed: "Whoever occupies himself with constant striving, he can be redeemed." Hence much of Goethe's writing rings true for egocentric lifestyles in the 21st century.

Goethe had the luxury of being a free-thinker—thanks to the nearly lifelong patronage of **Karl August**, Duke of Saxe-Weimar—so his wide-ranging travels and studies led to remarkably modern views, well beyond his affinity for **Spinoza**'s notion of God-in-Nature.

Nonetheless, you probably have yet to bump into his poetry and epigrams. Goethe wrote love poems from age eighteen to eighty, as translator **Graham Good** notes in his introduction to **Goethe's Poem**, but arguably it's his wit and wisdom as a philosopher that make this collection most enticing.

If the world had German fortune cookies, these could work nicely:

Where would the joy of certainty be. If we had never experienced doubt?

Above all, don't hate anyone; Let God take care of everything else.

For Johann Göethe, the "ö", or umlaut (double dots), is usually dumped in English, resulting in Goethe, roughly spoken as "Gurta."

It's not Van-go. For Vincent van Gogh, it's closer to Vun- hougkh or, if you like, "Vun-hoff." 978-1-55380-356-0

BI-POLAR IMPACT

The Death of Small Creatures by Trisha Cull (Nightwood \$22.95)

RISHA CULL'S FIRST BOOK, THE DEATH of Small Creatures, due in April, is a memoir about her experiences with bipolar disorder, substance abuse and bulimia, "and my fervent need for the approval and love of any and all men."

Having been bipolar for twenty-five years, Cull writes poetry about her abuse of many substances, including alcohol, prescription medication, cough



Johann Goethe

medicine, crystal meth and crack.

Three relationships significantly impact her life: her marriage to Leigh, a much older man; her unrequited love for Dr. P, her therapist; and her healthier relationship with Richard, an American she meets through her blog. She was bulimic since she was sixteen, but



with the help of her psychiatrist and others, she has gained a period of health and peacefulness, in remission from bulimia. "Mental illness is reaching epidemic proportions," she

says, "so I hope that my book will help people dealing with similar struggles to feel connected to something outside of themselves, to have hope."

A graduate of UBC's Creative Writing Program, Cull lives in Victoria.

978-0-88971-307-9

AFTER YEARNINGS

Passing Strangers by Pam Galloway (Innana \$18.95)

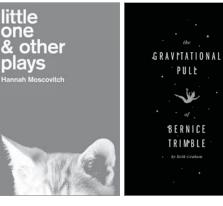
Passing Strangers, recalls the complexities of a long marriage and motherhood, leading to pregnancy and eventually divorce after her 30-year marriage fails. The poems in *Passing Strangers* go inward as Galloway writes frankly about her desire for children through numerous miscarriages. This pattern of expectation and loss is broken with the arrival of two babies.

"The poems in this book were written in response to the obsession which overtook me as I longed for a child. They are written for all women who are struggling or have struggled with the most intimate and passionate of life experiences, becoming a mother. It is a topic which has long been overlooked as perhaps not being 'serious' or 'erudite' enough for poetry."

"Divorce may well be another one. Yet more and more women in middle age and beyond are realizing their capacity for independence. They are finding strength in their ability to walk away from marriages which at best have grown cold and un-nourishing and, at worst, neglectful and abusive."

978-177133-184-5

Little One and Other Plays by Hannah Moscovitch, author of East of Berlin and This Is War.



The
Gravitational
Pull of
Bernice
Trimble
by Beth
Graham,
co-author
of The
Drowning
Girls and
Comrades.

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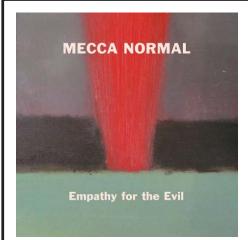
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CHELENE KNIGHT Braided Skin The vibrant telling of experiences of mixed ethnicity, urban childhood, poverty and youthful dreams through various voices. Chelene Knight is a graduate of The Writer's Studio at SFU. This is her remarkable debut book! "These poems do not let tribulation define the journey, though it's there; but something dances and laughs its way through this book at every turn." —WAYDE COMPTON, AUTHOR OF THE OUTER HARBOUR



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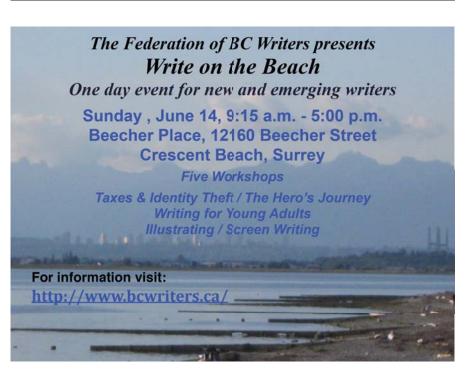
—Anne Michaels, author of Correspondences

128 pgs, French flaps | 978-1-896949-49-9 | \$19.95



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OPINION

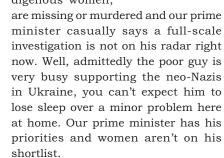
T'ain't funny, McGee

Our prime minister has his priorities and women aren't on his shortlist.

ALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY IS TRYING to figure out what to do with some fourth-year dentistry students who formed some kind of "gentleman's club" on Facebook and regaled each other with grotty posts about rape and about sex with patients who were under anaesthetic. Some of the women in the class learned about it and complained and now the fat is in the fire and the debate rages. In many ways it's like a continuation of the uproar when Jian Gomeshi was fired. Amazing how many people seem willing to accept "boys will be boys"

and let such evidence of hatred go unpunished.

There are people who seem incapable of connecting the dots, people who can't see that those kind of "jokes" are not only hurtful and harmful but indicative of a deepseated hatred of and contempt for girls and women. And that doesn't really surprise me, we live in a society which still seems to see little wrong in pay inequality, a society where one thousand-plus women, mostly Indigenous women,



I admit I'm sometimes accused of being "radical" (although I can't imagine why). I have little tolerance for rape jokes or mother-in-law jokes, or women driver jokes or... and yet more than a few people have said I have a wacko sense of humour and can find the funny in almost any situation.

For several years I was very involved in establishing and supporting a transition house where women and kids who needed to get out of and away from domestic violence could find a measure of safety.

Maybe the people who see nothing offensive in rape jokes should spend some time helping out in a place like that. Maybe they'd stop snickering when they saw the technicolour bruises, the sutures, the broken bones, the damaged faces or heard the sound a terrified child makes when she doesn't dare cry out loud but just can't hold in the horror any longer.

Years 'n' years ago I wrote a script

for a CBC drama and as part of the research was given a tour of "Project P," the anti-pornography unit of the Toronto City Police. I'll spare you a description of what we were shown but I will tell you I wound up hurling into a waste paper basket. And we were still on the bottom shelves of the evidence room, and what we were seeing was evidence presented in cases which did not result in conviction. That's right. Did NOT result in conviction but did result in me losing my morning coffee.

There used to be a programme on the radio (remember radio?) called *Fib*ber McGee and Molly and in almost ev-

ery episode Molly would say "T'ain't funny, McGee."
That's how I feel about rape jokes. It's how I feel about violence against women and girls.

There is an abortion pill that has been widely used in France for more than twentyfive years now. It has been available to women in the U.S. for almost fifteen years. It's called RU-486. It's still not available to women in Canada. Medical doctors say it is safer than Viagra or driving a car. Safer than penicil-



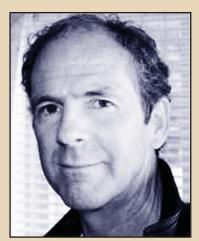
The radio series Fibber McGee and Molly featured real-life husband and wife team James Jordan and Marian Driscoll. It ran from 1935 to 1959.

lin. It is available to women in many countries. It has been awaiting approval from Health Canada for more than two years now. That's a longer waiting period for approval than any previous drug. You've got to wonder.

I've been up since before three ayem. I'm sending you this letter at 5 ayem. My cat, "Dustbugger" wanted out, he had places to go, things to do, and wasn't willing to wait until a civilized hour. What need has he of civilized behaviour, he's a cat. And somehow, sleep vanished. The world beyond my window is swathed in darkness, the streetlight at the corner is out and I couldn't be more awake if you paid me... Howzit that violence against women is never discussed on *Cross Country Check-up* or CNN? I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who thinks this way.

Anne Cameron grows pussywillows on the western edge of Vancouver Island. She received the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for an outstanding literary career in British Columbia in 2010. Her 23 books include Daughters of Copper Woman, the bestselling work of fiction ever written about B.C. and published from within B.C. She has banished herself to Tahsis, a small town not far from Friendly Cove where the shenanigans called British Columbia all began.

THE WORLD



Danial Neil

From the prairies to Greenpeace

A novel that hears the language of trees

The Trees of Calan Gray (Oolichan \$19.95) by Danial Neil was inspired, in part, by a 2010 CBC interview with Diana Beresford-Kroeger, author of The Global Forest. The novel was also written to commemorate the United Nations declaration of 2011 as the International Year of Forests—an invitation to the world to come together and work with governments, international organizations and civil society to ensure that our forests are managed sustainably for current and future generations. Neil's fourth novel centres upon a character named Calan Gray who hears the language of trees. In 1964, his violent father wants to commit him to an institution, believing his son is delusionary. The arrival of his grandfather from Scotland, Dunmore McLeod, kickstarts Calan's journey from the prairies to the West Coast where Greenpeace is organizing protests to halt the Amchitka nuclear tests in Alaska in 1971. Under the tutelage of Grandpa Dunny, Calan broadens his affinity for the natural world. 978-0-88982-297-9

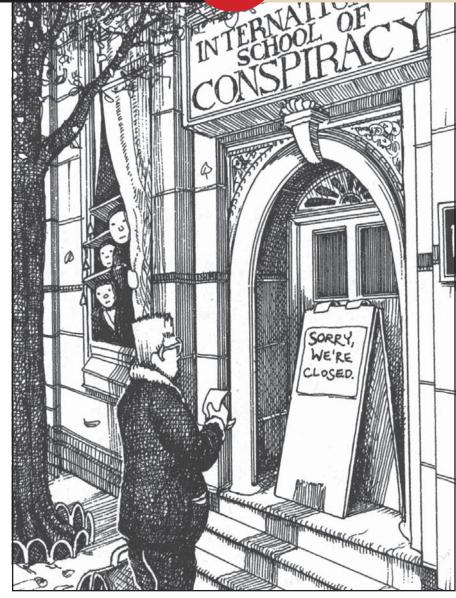


Illustration from Andrew Struthers' (below right) memoir

O, Struthers, where art thou?

An undeniably brilliant and original memoir

ple who like to laugh a lot and learn a lot at the same time, iconoclast **Andrew Struthers** of Tofino has written an undeniably brilliant and original memoir that surprises on every

page. Around the World on Minimum Wage (New Star Books \$21) has been described as a comedic memoir/ philosophical investigation of the tensions between eastern and western philosophies. That's very misleading and it doesn't do justice to the brilliance of his writing style, the clever candour of his observations and the genius of his

Staff Pick magpie mind. Mimicking the language and structure of a Victorian travelogue, the Scottish-born, Uganda/Prince George-raised Struthers can be hilarious on paper. His description of taking some hasty skydiving instructions from a

quintessentially coarse-mouthed Aussie, then absurdly risking his life in order to avoid embarrassment, should be enough to gain him an invitation to every writers festival in the land. Struthers is one of those rare people who obviously reads and retains ten times more than normal folks—one of those oddniks who might do well

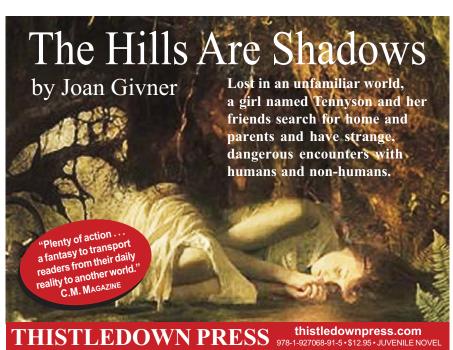
on Jeopardy—but he has a healthy, anti-elitist mindset that makes him a chronic outsider. It is increasingly rare in this era of spellcheck and Google to find someone whose writing style is uniquely their own. Anyone who values such originality would be well-advised to be curious about Around the World on Minimum Wage. It is the sort of book that is far too audaciously unlike any other book that nobody outside of British Columbia is likely to notice. For anyone on non-fiction prize juries in Ontario, it might as well be sanskrit. It is maverick, West Coastal to the bone. You will laugh. You will learn. And you will hesitate to recommend it to everyone because not everyone is going to be prepared to digest the denseness of its intelligence.

As a longtime resident of Tofino, Andrew Struthers has also produced a comic graphic novel about the strife between hippie environmentalists and local rednecks, *The Green Shadow* (Transmontanus 3: New Star, 1995), based on the confrontations about logging in Clayoquot Sound. The original serialised version of this story received a National Magazine Award for humour.

His follow-up was a memoir of living aboard a 'Mifflin fleet' fishboat, the *Loch Ryan*, with his young daughter Pasheabell. Called *The Last Voyage of the Loch Ryan: A Story from the West Coast* (New Star, 2004), it contains shipbuilding lore, local history and observations of his neighbours on the docks of Tofino after he was forced to give up his pyramid-treehouse on the outskirts of town. The 'mechanically declined' author prefers local ship lore to making repairs on his bargain-priced wooden boat courtesy of the federal government's fishing license buyback program.

Struthers' cartoon called *The Cheese Club* has been syndicated throughout North America. He once tried making "an ill-advised solo-attempt on Everest," as referenced in *Around the World on Minimum Wage.* 978-1-55420-086-3





Paul Yee & Shaoli Wang will launch their new book

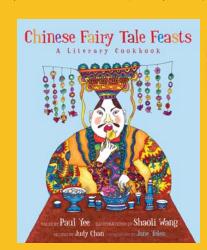
"A collection to feed the mind and the body." — Publisher's Weekly

"The colourful illustrations by Shaoli Wang dazzle."

— Quill & Quire

"The symbiosis between the recipes and the stories is impressive."

— School Library Journal





578 Carrall St Chinatown Vancouver

on Sunday May 3rd at 4pm.



is for Arleen

Arleen Paré's second collection of poetry, Lake of Two Mountains (Brick \$20), has won the Governor General's Award for English poetry in 2014. It explores the geography and history of the area between the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers that includes the 1990 Oka Crisis, Pleistocene shifts and a Trappist monastery. 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. She received a Master's degree in adult education from UBC, and a Master's of creative writing from the University of Victoria, where she now lives. 978-1-926829-87-6



Arleen Paré with GG Right Honourable David Johnston

is for **Brooks**

With an uncapitalized title, one hundred days of rain (Bookthug \$20) by Carellin Brooks is written in the form of journal of 99 days in the life of a woman who struggles to raise her child in Vancouver.

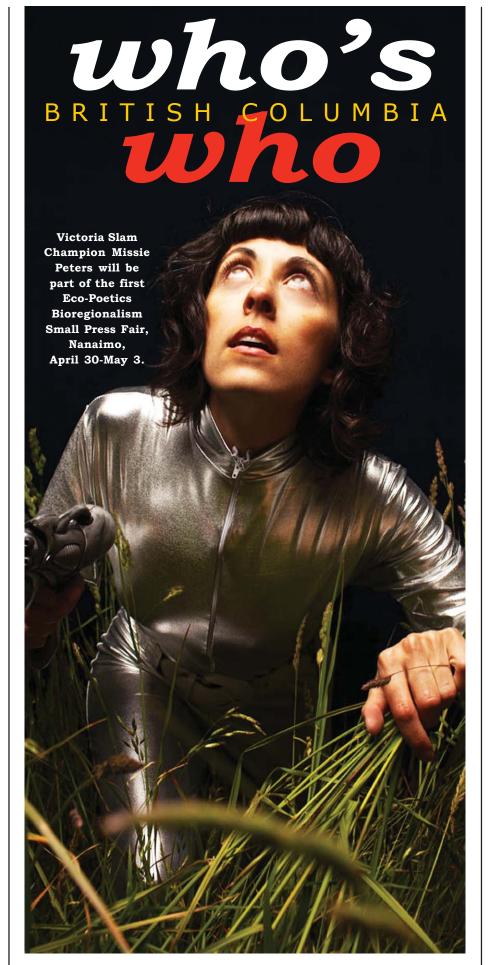
Promotional materials draw a comparison to Elizabeth Smart's classic West Coast memoir of pregnancy out of wedlock, By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept, in which the narrator is marooned in Pender Harbour, doomed to love a thoroughly egocentric, married man in a more conservative time.

Brooks' narrator copes with a disastrous break-up with her female expartner and a lack of responsiveness from the estranged father. The harried life of Brooks' modern, independent narrator is far less dire than being stuck in a tiny, coastal hamlet, so the comparison to By Grand Central Station is a tad misleading.

But there is no question that Brooks is a very bright writer with acute critical faculties. Hers is a collection of poignant vignettes more than it is a crafted novel. Repetitive descriptions of rain in the Lower Mainland have given rise to the title.



Carellin Brooks



is for **Christy**

One publisher has called him a hip Indiana Jones; one reviewer credited him with a 'Gary Cooper-like presence'.

Now, in case anyone is counting, Jim Christy has just published his

32nd book since 1972, The

Thirst and other Doggone Poems

(Ekstasis \$23.95), followed by his

33rd, Rogues, Rascals, and Scala-

wags Too: Ne'er-Do-Wells Through



Jim Christy

the Ages (Anvil \$20). Always in search of original characters and experiences, Jim Christy is a literary vagabond whose followup volume to Scalawags: Rogues, Roustabouts, Wags & Scamps (Anvil, 2008) profiles among others, Carolina Otero, Andre Malraux, Lord Timothy Dexter, Suzanne Valadon, William Hunt, Mata Hari, Emma Hamilton and Bata Kindai Amgoza.

> Thirst 978-1-77171-073-2; Ages 978-1-77214-017-0

is for **Dennis**

Darrell Dennis is a Secwepemc (Shuswap)-raised comedian, actor and broadcaster who has provided a humorous but astute overview of First Nations issues — particularly pertaining to identity — with his essays in Peace Pipe Dreams: The Truth about Lies about Indians (D&M \$22.95). The book arises from his experiences as an actor best-known for his roles as Brian Potter on Northwood and Frank Fencepost on The Rez, but also from his roles as producer and host for ReVision Quest, a show challenging First Nations stereotypes on CBC Radio One in

According to IMDb, Dennis's career in show business began when he walked into his first professional audition at age seventeen and was hired to play the lead role of Brian Potter in Northwood.

the summer of 2008.

Darrell Dennis

His one-man show Tales of an Urban Indian was nominated for two Dora Awards. He has lived in Vancouver. Williams Lake, Alkali Lake, Toronto and New York City. When his first book was published, he was living in Los Angeles. 978-1-77100-040-6

is for **Eco-Poetics**

Over the years Barry MacKinnon of Prince George has amassed a sizeable archive of "really good smelling" small press items such as old issues of TISH magazine and gestetnered books. MacKinnon will bring some samples when he joins poetry veteran George Stanley and two-time Victoria Slam Champion Missie Peters, who will be part of the B.C. contingent for the first Eco-Poetics Bioregionalism Small Press Fair to be held in Nanaimo, at Vancouver Island University, April 30-May 3. Other participants in this Cascadia initiative will include Americans Anastacia Tolbert, Brenda Hillman, Paul Nelson and Nadine Antoinette Maestas.

For more information, you can contact organizer David Fraser at ascentaspirations@gmail.com.

is for **Fraser**

Bruce F. Fraser QC owns a ranch at Lac La Hache in the Cariboo, giving rise to his trilogy-in-progress set in the Chilcotin. Having often represented First Nations clients, Fraser first used his experiences as a lawyer to write On Potato Mountain (Granville Island Publishing, 2010),

a murder mystery.

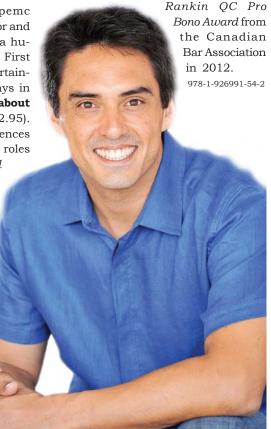


Fraser again follows the path of his artist-shaman protagonist Noah Hanlon across the Cariboo-Chilcotin as he helps track down a murderer in Bruce F. Fraser the follow-up novel called The Jade

Frog (Granville Island \$19.95). Set in the 1980s, this story also describes how the Chilcotin Nation was determined to preserve their ancestral homeland. The struggle culminates in an historic court case. In

June, 1914, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the right of the Chilcotin people to a significant part of their land.

Bruce Fraser received the Harry



WHO'S WHO

is for **Gifford**



James Gifford

James Gifford of airleigh Dickinson University in Vancouver has edited From the Elephant's Back: Collected Essavs & Travel Writings (University of Alberta Press \$34.95), a

collection of 38 previously unpublished or out-of-print essays and letters by Lawrence Durrell, renowned for the Alexandrian Quartet novels.

978-1772120516

is for **Harrison**



As principal of the Kootenay School of Ministry in Kelowna, William H. Harrison has followed Frequently Asked Questions in Christian Theology (Mowbray, 2008) W.H. Harrison with In Praise of

Mixed Religion: The Syncretism Solution in a Multifaith World (McGill-Queens \$34.95) advocating the mixing of ideas, beliefs and practices from different faiths. The process of intentionally combining elements from various religious heritages-known as syncretism—has long been dismissed by conventional religion practitioners who have subscribed to only one faith.

978-0-7735-4358-4

is for **Indigo**

Yes, we know we are supposed to bemoan the loss of any bookstore, but when Canada's largest bookstore chain, Indigo Books & Music Inc., announced the imminent closure of its flagship Vancouver store on Robson Street in June, well, we couldn't help but remember how many independent bookstores have been out of business by the aggressive Indigo/Chapters juggernaut. Indigo strong-arms publishers into hardcore discounts; it has diluted the viability of regional books and authors; and it has had a devastating impact on the quality of bookselling in B.C. Go, Indigo, go.

is for **Jews**



Lillooet Nördlinger McDonnell's Raincoast Jews: Integration in British Columbia (Midtown Press \$22.95) recounts the lives of five important Jews in B.C. between 1860

and 1970. Cecelia Davies is remembered for her charity work in Victoria; Hannah Director became head of the school board in Prince George; as a refugee from Czechoslovakia, Leon Koerner was a progressive figure from the B.C. lumber industry; founder of UBC's School of Music, Harry Adaskin is revered as an outstanding musician; Nathan Nemetz was a lawver who became the first Jewish Chief Justice of British Co-978-0-9881101-2-0

is for Kyi



A shipwreck on a remote island. A plane crash in the Peruvian jungle. Trapped deep in the earth with 33 others in a Chilean mine. Illustrated by David Parkins,

Tanya L. Kyi When the Worst Happens: Extraor-

dinary Tales of Survival (Annick Press \$14.95) is Tanya Lloyd Kyi's collection of true, action-packed stories about young people around the world who have had death-defying experiences. The accounts generally reveal how the youthful survivors used their unusual courage, skills and ingenuity to survive. It's her 22nd book and is suitable for ages 9-12.

9781554516827

is for Lowther



Christine Lowther, daughter of Pat Lowther, has written about her family background, and how the murder of her mother by her father affected her Chris Lowther and her sister Beth, in a short

essay called Gifts From Lands So Far Apart near the outset of her new memoir Born Out Of This (Caitlin \$21.95). "My mother had read her poems at peace rallies while we each took our turn in her womb."

The book also contains her reflections on the positive influence of punk rock and alternative music groups such as Mecca Normal over several decades in a piece called Generally Giving A Damn.

She lives on a floathouse in Tofino. 978-1-927575-55-0

is for Munsil

Janet Munsil's That Elusive Spark (Playwrights Canada \$16.95) was shortlisted for a 2014 Governor-General's Award for drama. That Elusive Spark brings together the stories of



Janet Munsil

Phineas Gage, a construction foreman who miracu lously survives an explosion that shoots an iron rod into his brain in 1848, and Helen Harlow, a young neuropsychologist in modern times.

Munsil has produced the Victoria Fringe Festival, Uno Fest and Winterlab. She was recently commissioned by Theatre Calgary and Canada's National Arts Centre to adapt Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice.

9781770912045

continued on page 38



Make It True Poems from Cascadia eds. Paul Nelson, George Stanley Barry McKinnon, Nadine Maestas

9711926655819 \$32.00 April A reimagination of ourselves in terms of ecology, sustainability, harmony with natural systems.

I Want poems by Joseph A. Dandurand

9711926655796 \$20.00 May "Good Lord – what a voice!!!!" -Richard van Camp

"Honesty that gets bare bones scary" —Daniel David Moses



Newborn: A Book of Verse

eds. AG Walker and U Vaira 9711926655802 \$18.00 May

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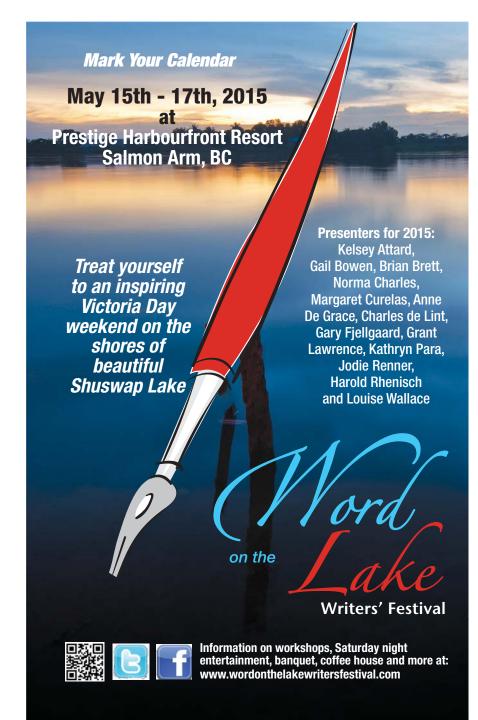
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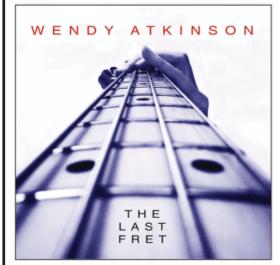
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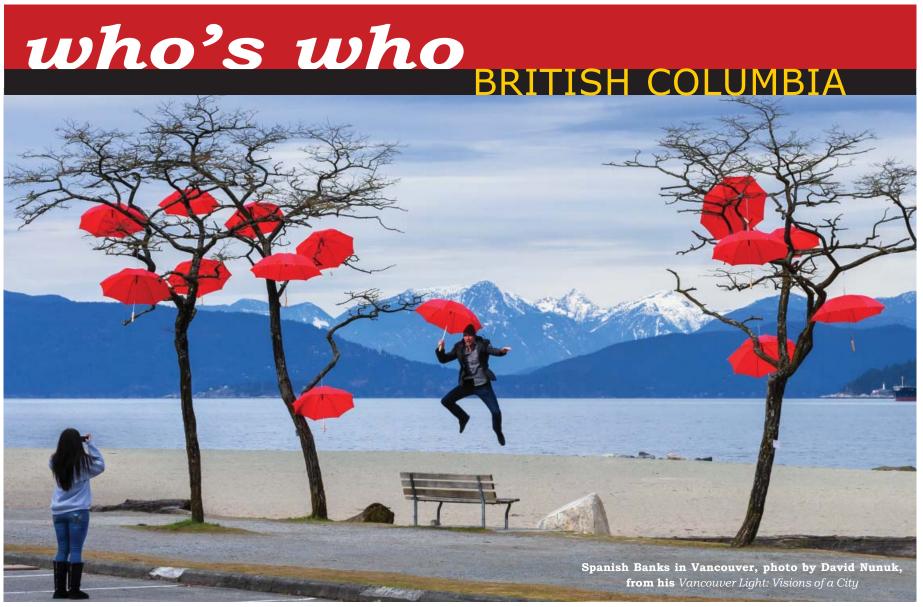


WENDY ATKINSON THE LAST FRET

Wendy Atkinson is a solo experimental bass-player who explores the low-end world of electric, acoustic and double basses. The Last Fret includes ebow, toy piano, field recordings and prepared bass. The songs range from ambient, textured pieces to rhythmic poppy instrumentals to spoken word but, always, bass is the core.

SMARTEN UP! & Get to the Point Records

Download via BANDCAMP: wendyatkinson.bandcamp.com/releases CDs: wendyatkinsonbassplayer.wordpress.com



is for **Nunuk**

David Nunuk has been photographing the landscapes of B.C. for thirty years, often travelling far off the beaten path to take stunning images of the natural world. The Aldergrovebased photographer was previously nominated for a B.C. Book Prize for his Natural Light: Visions of British Columbia (Harbour, 2003). In his Vancouver Light: Visions of a City (Harbour \$49.95), Nunuk sets out to capture vistas of Vancouver. He measures the changing lights, colours and moods of the city, and through the camera's eye finds the pink blush of scattered cherry blossoms and the urban still life reflected in the silent waters of Coal Harbour. The collection of over 100 images from Howe Sound to the Fraser River is remarkably original considering the vistas are well-known. 978-1-55017-663-6

is for **Oolichan**



Originally from Newfoundland, Jennifer Heath is a former massage therapist spent a year studying organic farming at Linnea Farm on Cortes. Jennifer Heath McCallister is a paediatric physi-

otherapist from Ontario. As relative newcomers to Fernie, they kept peeking over the fences of their neighbours in the Elk Valley to turn a 2010 multimedia exhibit called Down to Earth: Elk Valley Gardens and Their Keepers into a book of growing tips from thirteen local gardeners, **Down** to Earth: Cold-Climate Gardens & Their Keepers (Oolichan \$29.95). It's a joyful, well-illustrated celebration on family gardens and the concept of sharing knowledge and recipes.

978-0-88982-302-0

is for Partridge

Elise Partridge died of cancer at age 56 on January 31, 2015, prior to the release of her third collection of poetry, The Exiles' Gallery (Anansi \$19.95), which contains work pertaining to her fatal illness. Having been raised in Pennsylvania and having studied at Harvard (where she was taught by Robert Lowell), she came to Vancouver in 1992 and was shortlisted ten years later for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award with her first poetry collection, Fielder's Choice. Her second book, Chameleon Hours, in 2008, was a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and winner of the Canadian Authors Association Poetry Award. Partridge also published in The New Yorker, Slate, and The New Republic. Her husband, Stephen Partridge, teaches medieval literature at UBC. 978-1770899797

is for **Quartermain**



M. Quartermain

Earle Birney once concluded a satirical poem called Can. Lit. 1947 with the lines: "no Whitman wanted / it's by our lack of ghosts / we're haunted." eredith Quartermain is solving the prob-

lem. In her collection of short stories about writers and writing, Quartermain is haunted by the writers who have walked the streets of Vancouver before her, such as Pauline Johnson, Malcolm Lowry, Robin Blaser and Daphne Marlatt. This collection is a meditation on the nature of creative writing, raising esoteric questions such as: Who is writing whom and what? The writer or the written? The thinker or the alphabet? The calligrapher or the pictograms hidden in the Chinese characters she writes? Publicity materials suggest Quartermain is taking her cue from "genre-bending writers like Robert Walser and Enrique Vila-Matas." The collection called I, Bartleby (Talonbooks \$14.95) blurs the lines between fiction and reality. 9780889229181

is for **Rogers**



Janet Rogers

The release of Janet Rogers' latest collection of poetry, Peace in Duress (Talonbooks \$16.95), occurs at the conclusion of her three-year tenure as poet laureate of Victoria. Promo-

tional material says, "Rogers' newest collection pulses with the rhythms of the drum and the beat of the heart." Janet Rogers was born in Vancouver, in 1963. She has been living in the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people, in Victoria, since 1994. She began her creative career as a visual artist, and began writing in 1996.

978-0-88922-911-2

is for Saxifrage



Carrie Saxifrage

Carrie Saxifrage is a journalist for the Vancouver Observer who also honed her research skills as an environmental lawyer in the US.

Having climbed mountains that include the Matterhorn and Chimbo-

razo, she homesteads on Cortes Island where she has adopted a low carbon lifestyle. She has worked with First Nation communities in their struggles with the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline. In her first book, The Big Swim: Coming Ashore

in a World Adrift (New Society \$16.95), she uses wit and lyricism to confront climate change in twelve personal essays to demonstrate how responding to threats to the biosphere can generate personal growth.

Carrie Saxifrage will be profiled in our summer issue. 9780865717985

is for Tammemagi



H. Tammemagi

Hans Tammemagi knows how to get what he wants; that's why he wrote Winning Proposals (Self Counsel Press \$16.95), now into its third edition.

As an environmental columnist

for the Vancouver Sun and a professor at the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, Tammemagi, of Pender Island, also wrote Air: Our Planet's Ailing Atmosphere (Oxford, 2009), an exploration of the myriad problems affecting our atmosphere, including smog, acid rain, ozone depletion and climate change. He has a B.Sc. Physics; M.Sc. & Ph.D. in geophysics.

978-1-77040-060-3

is for **Uganda**

Ainslie Manson's thirteenth children's book, A Giraffe Called Geranium (Red Diamond / Sandhill \$19.95) was inspired by her trip to Uganda where her niece manages safari camps. Manson learned about poaching problems and the need to protect giraffes, prompting her to create a whimsical story, illustrated by Mary Baker, about a giraffe that makes an inexplicable appearance in a West Coast garden. A girl named Susanna comforts and names the giraffe, but it's homesick for the African savannah—so they set sail for 978-0-9937341-0-6

WHO'S WHO



Manolis Aligizakis has announced his most extraordinary book-a facsimile of his own handwritten version of Erotokritos, a romantic-epic poem composed by Vitzentzos Kornaros of Crete, a contemporary of William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. The text consists of 10,012 fifteen-syllable rhyming verses by Kornaros (1553-1614) that Manolis hand-copied in 1958 at the age of eleven. This unusual publishing venture will constitute a limited print run of 100 copies, each to be autographed and dedicated by Manolis, for \$5,000 per copy.

is for Wang

Jack and **Holman Wang**, as twin brothers in Vancouver, were big *Stars Wars* fans. Jack became a professor of writing at Ithaca College in New York and Holman, a former lawyer

and school teacher, now works full-time as an artisan with felt action figures in Vancouver.

As co-creators of *Cozy Classics* board books, they have teamed up for a re-telling of the *Star Wars* story for pre-school children. Starting with **Star Wars Epic Yarns: A New Hope** (Chronicle \$11.95), their series will reduce the saga

into board books. Their first volume features twelve iconic scenes: Princess Leia sends a hologram message via R2-D2; Luke Skywalker learns how to use a lightsabre, etc. Jack Holman provides the pithy narration—as pithy as one-word per page—and Holman Wang has handcrafted the felt action figures. **George Lucas** has given his permission/blessing for the project.



Merna Forster notes that three women featured in Eve Lazarus' Sensational Vancouver book—Nellie Yip Quong, Elsie MacGill and Phyllis Munday — were profiled in her books 100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces (2004) and 100 More Canadian Heroines (2011) and that Canada's first female cop was not

Lurancy Harris, as suggested in Sensational Vancouver. "Research shows Rose Fortune, who I included in my book 100 Canadian Heroines, was the first female police officer in Canada," Forster writes. "A former slave, she lived from about 1774 to 1864. She became a police officer in Annapolis Royal. The Canadian Encyclopedia notes she is considered to be the first policewoman in Canada. Rose's claim to fame as the first black female police officer in Canada has been recognized by the Association of Black Law Enforcers."

is for **Yam**

Yam Cooper of Penticton has written, illustrated and self-published The Story of Bill and His House on the Hill (\$19.95), described as a humorous and refreshing tale for all ages about diversity, leadership and xenophobia. Bill has grass hair. As an outcast, he forms a friendship with a deaf-blind critter and reinvents a language that bypasses discrimination

and connects people through the heart. Educator and humourist Yam Cooper is a member of the non-profit family band Vivibe, "playing world music for peace and deepening the human to human and human to planet connection," and he's on the board of directors of Happy Hive Creative Learning Society, "a fresh new organization of awe-

some visionaries creating innovative creativity, life skills, and teamwork programs for children."



Set during the Vietnam War and the counter-culture response to it within Canada, The Whale Chaser (Chicago Review Press \$16.95) by Tony Ardizzone follows the life of Vincent Sansone, the eldest child and only son in a large Italian American family, who is a disappointment to his violent, fishmonger father in Chicago. Vince hightails it to Tofino where he first gets a job gutting fish, then joins the marijuana trade as a salesman for a dealer named Mr. Zig-Zag until his friendship with an Ahousaht aboriginal, Ignatius George, results in a job as guide for tours to see whales.

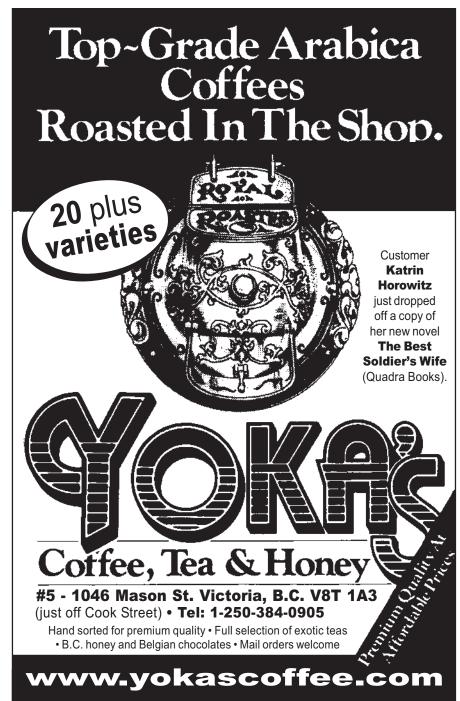
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Jack and Holman Wang

As a translator and publisher of Greek literature, Manolis Aligizakis visited the tomb of Zorba the Greek novelist Nikos Kazantzakis in Crete.







OBITS



Betty Pratt-Johnson [1930-2014]

sport diving, **Betty Pratt-Johnson** was born in 1930 in Illinois and moved to BC in 1961. She learned to dive in 1967 at the YMCA in Vancouver when there was only one dive shop in the city. She was certified #55 on the BC Safety Council and certified as Sport Diver 363 by the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) in 1973. She became the first writer to present *Pacific Diver* magazine with an article on scuba diving in local BC waters.

"It was 1975," *Pacific Diver* publisher **Peter Vassilopoulos** says, "and the magazine had just been founded and published in Vancouver."

First released in 1976, her authoritative, self-published guide to scuba and skin diving in B.C. and Washington, *141 Dives*, has been reprinted umpteen times. "I decided to write the very book I wanted to buy," she said, "and it was a great excuse to go diving." This work is still available from Sandhill Distributing as *151 Dives* (2007).

Back in 1976, when her first diving book appeared, she became a contributing editor for *Pacific Diver* magazine, now called *Diver Magazine*, and wrote for every issue for 6½ years. She also wrote books on whitewater trips for kayakers, canoeists and rafters.

Places at which Pratt-Johnson dived include the Red Sea, East China Sea, Greece, Formentera, Hawaii, Indonesia, Fiji, the northern Great Barrier Reef, Martinique, Jamaica, Mexico, Bermuda, Andros and Eleuthera in the Bahamas, Brazil, Tobago, Colombia, the Galapagos Islands and freshwater lakes in Alberta.

"She was one of the first, if not the first, freelance writing diver to travel to Mexico," says Vassilopoulos, "search out diving opportunities and make connections with fishermen and others who would turn to recreational diving as a business in the future. She will be missed but her books will keep her memory alive indefinitely."

She settled in the Kootenays, moving to Kaslo in 1997. "In 2002 I put my foot in the door of technical diving when I certified for nitrox," she said, "and have dived with it ever since." She was certified as Nitrox Diver 76578 by Technical Diving International.

When she was no longer able to dive due to aging eyes at age seventy-nine, she went to Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, researching *Little Walks Across Canada*. "I am a total optimist," she said, "and I love the process of researching books and writing them."

Betty Pratt-Johnson died on October 21, 2014.



For more info on these authors, visit ABCBOOKWORLD.COM

Sean Rossiter

(1946-2015)

BORN IN HALIFAX IN 1946, **SEAN ROSSITER** died on January 5, 2015.

Rossiter came to B.C. in 1972 where he became a freelance writer on Vancouver civic affairs for many years, writing a popular column on city



Sean Rossiter

hall for *Vancouver Magazine*. An intrepid and lifelong aviation enthusiast, Rossiter wrote numerous books about airplanes. With a similar passion for hockey, a game he continued to play beyond his youth, Rossiter

wrote many books about hockey, some with **Paul Carson**.

His excellent pictorial history of the Hotel Georgia in 1998 arose from his abiding interest in Vancouver architecture.

"Sean was one of the most professional writers I have had the good fortune to work with over the years," says Greystone publisher **Rob Sanders**, "and the series of *Hockey The NHL Way* skill books Sean wrote set the bar where it still stands to this day. Sean was also a skilled goalie. I never did get a puck by him the day I tried. But most importantly, he was an exceptional guy."

Grant Kennedy

(1935-2014)

GRANT HUGH KENNEDY, WHO DEVELOPED Lone Pine Publishing into one of the most commercially successful publishing companies in Western Canada (later managed by his son, **Shane Kennedy**), died on October 14, 2014 at St. Mary's Hospital in Sechelt, B.C. In 1980, Grant Kennedy created Lone Pine Publishing in Edmonton, focusing on nature and recreation guides, and he later became a prominent figure in Canadian publishing.

Grant Kennedy was born in Hoey, Saskatchewan on March 27, 1935 and grew up in Dawson Creek. He loved to tell stories about his formative years as the Alaska Highway was being built.

Alicia Priest (1953 - 2015]

A JOURNALIST FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, MOST recently recognized for her family memoir A Rock Fell on the Moon: Dad and the Great Yukon Silver Ore Heist, Victoria-based **Alicia Priest** died from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis on January 13, 2015, having been diagnosed in 2012. She overcame "the ultimate deadline" to finish A Rock Fell on the Moon which recalls how her father, Gerald Priest, in the small Yukon mining town of Elsa in the 1960s, stole \$160,000 worth of silver ore from one of the largest mining companies in Canada—and how he got caught. She was able to attend multiple book events and sign books while her husband, Ben Parfitt, and her daughter, Charlotte, read for packed bookstores.

LETTERS

And so, Tibet

THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL EXPOSURE IN the BC BookWorld winter issue for my book, Meltdown in Tibet. The book has taken on a life of its own, with review coverage ranging from New Scientist to the Washington Post (January 2nd). Incredibly, at book-launch time in November, I found myself sitting opposite famed environmental writer Barry Lopez, on a panel at the Singapore Writers Festival, and also chatting to famed travel author Paul Theroux-who was banned from entering Singapore for more than 20 years. Theroux was the hit of the festival. I moved along to Hong Kong for presentations there, including the prestigious Royal Geographical

Reader disapproves

MICHAEL BUCKLEY'S "MELTDOWN IN TIBET" blames Chinese coal burning for melting glaciers, while simultaneously decrying the hydroelectric power dams that are the primary alternative clean power option to dirty coal. He blames Chinese mining for deteriorating grassland quality, but anyone with access to Google earth can observe that mining has an infinitesimal footprint on the Tibetan plateau compared to the vast areas of grassland. He may have a few valid points, but his inconsistencies make it clear that this is a polemic rather than a documentary.

Jonathan Colvin

Galiano Island



Michael Buckley (left) at the Singapore Writers Festival, meets Paul Theroux, author of the novel The Mosquito Coast on which a major 1986 film was based.

Society. Theroux delivered the keynote speech at the RGS Annual Dinner. At the end, he actually signed a few trains. Well, toy trains that decorated the guest tables at his keynote presentation. Books open many doors-with some surprising ones!

Michael Buckley

Vancouver

Dharamsala approves

I RECENTLY PICKED UP A COPY OF BC BOOKWORLD on the Langdale ferry and read the compelling and troubling cover story by Michael Buckley; "Why Michael Buckley became a Yaktivist." Thank you for giving some exposure to this distressing situation which has been given very little coverage in the conventional media.

The world stands by while an entire indigenous culture of ethnic Tibetans and their land is being destroyed by the Chinese. You'll be pleased to hear that upon seeing the cover of this issue of BC BookWorld online, the Tibetan community in Dharamsala was very encouraged. They were most interested to have a spotlight put on Tibet and to learn about Mr. Buckley's book Meltdown in Tibet.

Your readers might also want to know about a self-published book, Dharamsala Days, Dharamsala Nights, by B.C. writer Pauline Macdonald. It's about the plight of ethnic Tibetan refugees in Dharamsala who are being "returned" to Tibet/China, possibly to face persecution.

Bette Chadwick Sechelt

Hunting Elk in Kitsilano

YEARS AGO A FRIEND ADVISED ME TO SEND you a copy of my closer-to-silly-thanabsurd, little book, Hunting Elk in Kitsilano. As you had left the Georgia Straight when they hired Doug Collins, your kind review of my book only saw the light of day in a tightly circulated literary newsletter at the time. I had just completed a graduate fellowship at the San Francisco Art Institute, but chose to go into law, so Hunting Elk was intended to be an adventure; an unedited rough sketch, but the fact that you gave it your attention meant a lot to me.

Since then I pursued a career as trial and appellate counsel on freedom of expression cases, as well as contempt, environmental, and many murder cases; basically everything from white collar to black leather. But I hit a tipping point, quit, and now live above a Teddy Bear Museum in Thailand where I have no wife, TV or dog, so I'm writing.

Now it's time for me to recognize you. Congratulations on getting the Order of Canada for, amongst other things, supporting fledglings like me in the daunting task of putting themselves out there. Kudos to you, Alan Twigg, for following your heart and for helping others to do the same.

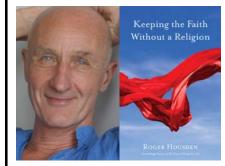
Jim Millar Thailand

I vaguely recall your book (from the mid-80s?). The size of the publishing house generally determines the receptivity of media, but one tries to operate beyond the boundaries of mere commerce. Slice the pie fairly. And educate. Please take a moment to send brief biographical info, as well as a headshot, and I will add your book to our public service website at ABCBookWorld, for and about 10,800 B.C. authors. – A.T.

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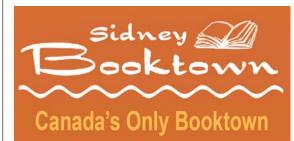


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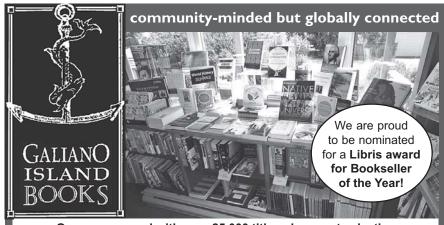








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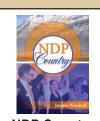
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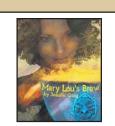
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Ellis, David...34



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FICTION SATIRE

A couple more

Literary duo Edith Iglauer and Frank White, aged 97 and 100 respectively.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE GETTING MORE SUGGESTIONS from readers about writing couples—nice idea for a piece. Here are a few more B.C. writing couples: Esi Edugyan and Steven Price (especially considering the rumoured 6-figure sale for his new novel!), David Leach and Jenny Manzer (forthcoming Kurt Cobain novel), playwright Kevin Kerr and poet Marita Daschel.

John Threlfall Victoria

A roomful of our own

I WAS HONOURED TO BE FEATURED, ALONG WITH Mark Zuehlke, in your recent story on literary couples. People often ask us what it's like for two writers to live together and David Conn did a great job of answering that question, at least as it applies to us. I'd love to get together with a roomful of other literary couples and compare notes. Small correction: My Children of the Klondike was published by Whitecap Books, not Firefly, who also published my Woodpeckers of North America and Owls of North America.

Frances Backhouse

Victoria

10 more B.C. literary couples

LETTERS

Esi Edugyan & Steven Price
David Leach & Jenny Manzer
Kevin Kerr & Marita Daschel
Edith Iglauer & Frank White
Wendy Wickwire &
Michael M'Gonigle
Richard Mackie & Susan Safyan
Rob Budde & Debbie Keahey

Ken Belford & Si Transken

Karin Beeler and Stan Beeler



Vivien Lougheed & John Harris

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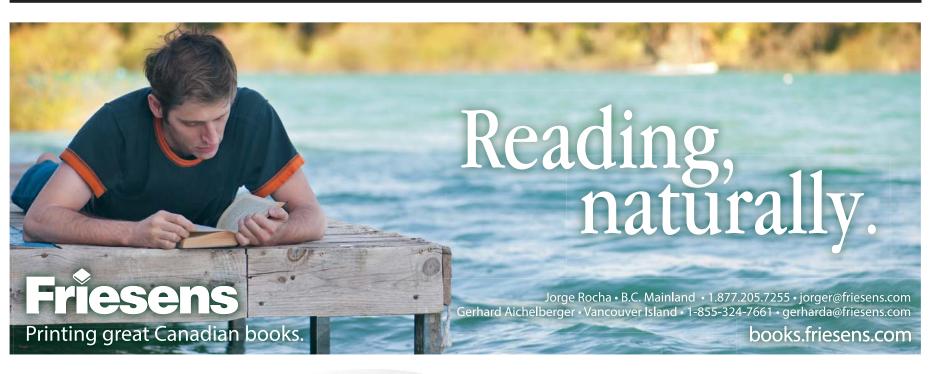
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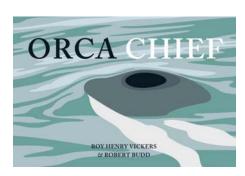
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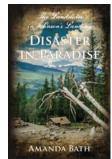


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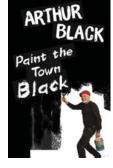
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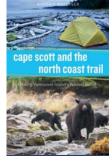
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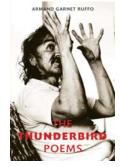


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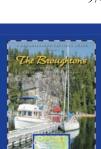
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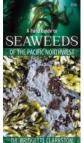
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